

Maclean's

THE BATTLE OVER

CENSORSHIP

WHO DEFINES PUBLIC MORALITY?

Dan Aykroyd and
Rosie O'Donnell
in *Exit to Eden*



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
OCTOBER 24, 1984 VOL. 10/ NO. 43

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The death of a young Israeli soldier in a kidnapping drama overshadowed the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to two chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, California Republican Governor-elect Michael Huffington is launching the most expensive campaign in congressional history

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The battle over censorship

26 Three cases focused debate on Canada's censorship laws: the trial of controversial paintings in Toronto, a Vancouver bookstore's lawsuit against Canada Customs, and the brief banning of a movie in Saskatchewan. Together, they illustrate the fast-changing nature of the country's battle over what is obscene—and who should make that decision



Jurek's legacy

12 The body of Luc Jurek, the shadowy leader of the Order of the Solar Temple, was identified in Switzerland. But the reasons behind his death, and those of 52 other people linked to the religious cult, remained a mystery

Martin's debt plan

36 Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin and his provincial counterparts failed to agree on a plan to reform the unpopular set at their latest gathering in Toronto. But Martin is already focusing on his next challenge: attacking the deficit while the Canadian economy is swinging into a recovery



Extra dimensions

Thank you for "The new spirituality" issue (Cover, Oct. 23). Thank you also to Peter C. Newman for his related piece ("New Age dreams in hard times," *The Nation's Business*, Oct. 15). It was refreshing to see this discussion and thought from someone so learned in the realms of Canadian business and politics. I think new spirituality can be summed up in one sentence: people have for a long time believed we are physical beings somehow having a spiritual experience, now there are a growing number of people discovering that we are actually spiritual beings having a physical experience.

Chris Gellard
Wheat Ridge, B.C.

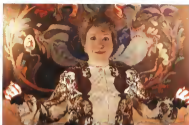
The issue heralding the new spirituality and including a warning from Peter C. Newman that this new spirituality is "open to exploitation by self-proclaimed gurus, new cults and charlatans" arrived in my mailbox on the same day as the facts were broadcasting the first reports of the deaths of the members of the Order of the Solar Temple in Quebec and Switzerland. In *New Age* spirit, this would be called synchronicity. Personally, I see this as proof that Newman has the ear, if not the consciousness, of the Almighty.

Paul Robinson,
Edmonton, Ont.

I was extremely disappointed to see your new spirituality articles. You present a message of (inevitable) dangers, looking for the best (best spirit, nature, physical conditioning, or eternal guarantee) that somehow you fail to address the psychology of religion as the sense, mind and superstitious hangovers of once established religions or the dangers of cults. And Peter C. Newman, based on his sermon concluding the perverse notion that the West Coast may somehow be closer to God than the alienation and paranoia of Toronto, might want to start his own "we're better than others" religion. Finally, nowhere is there a suggestion that the pursuit of knowledge, peace and happiness may itself be superseded through devotion to this through charlatans and self-deception.

Andrew McCosken
Toronto

As a teacher of yoga and meditation for over 30 years, numerous pag delirious and your articles on the new spirituality. I have seen yoga classes evolve so that they are now attended by people of all walks of life and faith.



Portrait-chamber Anne Moore: "physical beings having a spiritual experience"

As if as a member of an organized religion (I am a Sikh). I am open to the possibility that this soul-searching may even allow new life into traditional religions and propel them into the 21st century.

Garyn Kior Kadar,
Hawthorn

All I can say is that I'm tired. Tired of knowing to yourself athletes winning, tired of ego-trip owners and tired of the media backdrop. I just wish there could give their heads a shake and remember that these are just games.

Ken Cooper,
Richmond, B.C.

Finders, keepers

In "A mid on tamers?" (*Business*, Oct. 15), you state that Ottawa is considering "taxing pension plans and trusts." This comes as no surprise to the many Canadians who are familiar with the first two rules of government: 1. Find some money 2. Spend it.

Werner R. Myberg,
Edmonton

Forbidden fruit

Comments to Diane Francis for her well-researched background by and can add presentation of Frank Stronach's simple and logical plan for a companion body to replace the Senate and rule based on the House of Commons ("No entrepreneur's carbon proposal," *Business* Oct. 15). Almost loses the article, however, is any suggestion as to how such a concept could see fruition once in the hands of politicians, apart of whom "could never, although not knowingly sacrifice their political careers for any issue, no matter how virtuous."

Richard J. Turner,
Guelph, N.S.

The simple life

The simplistic intricacies of capitalism, editors and columnists alike concerning the ongoing labor disputes in major-league baseball and the National Hockey League seem to get lost in parts of life and exploiting tactics ("Waiting game," *Sports*, Oct. 15). Without these sports, it is now a simpler life, without renting contributions, shirking consumer calls, endless statistical questions and a blur of games, scores and notorious leagues. Fans now pursue different types of entertainment, get more exercise or even get to know their friends and families a little better. We Canadians have survived much more disruption, terror, postal and civil service labor disputes. This is not a strike that actually leaves one on our hands and money in our pockets.

Bill Delaney
Mississauga, Ont.

A stone unturned

Alan Fackelbaum is wrong when he comments "There is no sport left in sport" ("Where's the fun of the sport?" *Columbus*, Oct. 20). You forget curling. Dr. Fackelbaum, baseball and hockey have been taken over by moneygrabbers and lawyers, but curling still remains a great Canadian sport, a game that combines strategy, technique and a strong sense of fair play. You're never out of a real fan or a real great sport, and you're bang on with the curlers.

Joe White,
Windsor, Ont.

FORECAST

"Another record-breaking low on my long distance bill."

— Fred McMann,

Publisher, *Lindsay Daily Post*

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LETTERS

Vindication

In "And justice for all" (*Shocking News*, Oct. 3), you describe the Crown's case of careless use of a firearm against pharmacist Steve Boswell of Colborne, Ont., who shot out the tires of a van used by robbers at his drugstore. In the last line, you proudly state that "the authorities are clearly trying to teach Boswell a lesson: next time reach for the phone, instead of a gun." You fail to mention that the police took up to 30 minutes to respond in the previous eight times Boswell was robbed. Was the Crown acting better to do?

Paul T. Hines,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

How prophetic your sarcastic title turned out to be since Steve Boswell was found not guilty. The judge found his actions justifiable since narcotics theft was the focus of the crime and the anticipated response time

of the police was too long. Clearly, the final lesson in Crown attorney David Thompson's is to leave people have the right to defend their property in extreme circumstances.

Frederick E. Hermon,
Brampton, Ont.

Steadfast

Remembering your article "The power of the Pope" (*World*, Sept. 19), I am glad that the Pope does not change his views on ethical issues to suit popular opinion. If he did, we wouldn't need a pope at all. We could obtain our spiritual enlightenment by reading the newspaper or watching TV.

Dr. J. M. MacLennan,
Smiths Falls, Ont.

Time to rejoice

In response to your article "Should someone pay?" (*World*, Sept. 19), I would like to comment on the "wonderful birth" incident. The *Sun* writer's opinion that their child is so

much of a burden that they would have aborted it had they known that it was afflicted with Down's syndrome is grossly incorrect. They should be rejoicing in the birth of their baby, not trying to be compensated for it. A child is a miracle, and if the parents aren't willing to raise this child the way he deserves to be raised, there are thousands of people in this country who would be happy to.

Angela Smalley,
Ottawa, Ont.

Salmon river

We take great issue with your Sept. 12 article "An Atlantic mystery—salmon are no longer returning to nearby rivers" (*Quality*). Our lodge on the Gander River in Newfoundland has had quite a successful year of salmon fishing. Catches have been equal to last year, averaging six to 12 lb. There has been a slight decrease in the number of salmon over the past several years, but certainly no shortage.

Charles N. Patton,
Deer Lodge,
Gander Falls, Nfld.

Maclean's welcomes reader letters, but letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Write: Letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, 177 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5H 3A7. Or call (416) 593-2266, ext. 2222.

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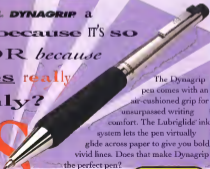
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OPENING NOTES

HAIL TO THE CHIEF, AND GOODBYE

It was the celebration of a long-serving first. Last week, Toronto police Chief William McCracken led the city's civilian police services board by announcing what he planned to retire in June—rather than in January, as expected. The central reality was McCracken's long-simmering battle with Mayor Erog, the 41-year-old chairman of the board, appointed by the NDP government in 1991. In an attempt to end the war, Erog, a former law lawyer, said that McCracken would get his way on tenure, while the body promised not to name a new chief until January. But if McCracken and the board had different views, they have nothing on Toronto's daily misadventure. After a pro-McCracken crowd demonstrated outside police headquarters on the day before his resignation, the conservative Toronto Star ran the front-page headline "Stop, Chief?" Meanwhile, a column by Ron Doherty of the liberal Toronto Star was titled, "Seniors' narrow behind police orgy of praise for chief."

There were other facts in conflict. In the Star, columnist Bob McDonald reported that 1,300 of Toronto's "oldest misqu岸" attended the rally. In the Star/Doherty article that only about 300 people attended the rally. A news story in the same issue of the Star put attendance at 1,800.

Toronto's Globe and Mail, meanwhile, has tended to stay above the Star-Star fray over police matters. But in an editorial last week, the paper called McCracken's move to extend his tenure "unpleasant and morally dubious." The paper's estimate of attendees at the pro-McCracken rally: 300.



King (left), McCracken at the conclusion of a long-simmering battle

PAPER WARS

When Neil Reynolds was fired on Aug. 24 as editor of the two Saint John, N.B., daily newspapers—the *Telegraph-Journal* and the *Evening Times-Globe*—it was clear that his departure would be any moment. After the loss, general manager Brian Plimley gave no reason for the firing—to es-

ter the media or Reynolds himself. But the two were often at loggerheads. In one incident, editors planned to run an article about Mayor Howard Douglas that would have taken the word out of a lawyers' announcement for the next day. Plimley told editors to pull the story. But later that night, Reynolds returned to the offices and resumed the post. Despite losing almost four years left in his five-year contract, Reynolds says he is no

longer on the payroll of New Brunswick's powerful living history, which owns the newspapers. Now, Brian McNeil, a Saint John lawyer acting for Reynolds, has filed notice of intent to take action for breach of contract. And the editor made another allegation—of defamation of character. But in Reynolds and management negotiate towards an out-of-court settlement, neither party is prepared to discuss that one.

HARD TIMES FOR TORIES

Factory-born company, Patrick Macdonald should be happy. The former lobbyist and friend of Brian Mulroney is scheduled on Oct. 20 to face five charges of tax evasion on income of nearly \$1 million—charges Mulroney denied but which, following a "bookkeeping error" at a number of other politicians and aides from his Mulroney years, have recently landed in trouble/financial entities. Among them:

■ He was revealed last week that Quebec City lawyer and politician Guy Gauthier, who in 1993 led the Ottawa lobbying firm Government Consultants International—the



Macdonald: "bookkeeping error"

which Macdonald used to work—to join American businessman David Copperfield's show, declared taxable receipt on Sept. 15.

■ Ottawa lobbyist Rick Lucas, the wife who accompanied former Mulroney defence minister Robert Corio to a Green stripe club in 1988, declared bankruptcy.

■ Montreal lawyer Jean Sirois, former Quebec City Conservative hall member and board member of Via Rail declared bankruptcy.

■ Quebec judge ordered former Mulroney cabinet adviser André Rivest, who left cabinet and set up a company of involvement in the Orford area in 1987, to pay \$625,424 to the Banque Nationale de Paris (Canada) in connection with a troubled hotel deal.



The Russian Program, from Agn. 1994

hockey team. Already lobbied by the MLI's Pittsburgh Program and chairman the "Russian Program," the team has had and is a mid-cling power in Russia's top two divisions, that such in its status that Red Army only/anyway other team, packing 5,000 fans into Moscow stadium while first-place Dynamo makes do with a meagre 1,000. Taking advantage of that market, Disney has entered into a merchandising agreement with the team—and Red Army will never be the same. Disney designers have created new team sweaters in red, white and blue and emblazoned with a revised Russian symbol, the two-headed eagle. As well, Disney is creating a Russian Program Christmas calendar. It will also offer such merchandise items as actual game sweaters worn by stars (Stanford) and by Red Army team like there are such. "With Disney's marketing, jerseys before us, it can only get better," says Brad Seiden, the U.S. team marketing director for the team. "They're even talking about making a movie involving the Russian Program's." "Cries in 1997."

MICKEY MOSCOW

Although the 1991's fledgling Mighty Ducks of Anaheim had a dismal 33-45 record last season, they were universal champions of the so-called staid Ducks phenomenon accounted for a full third of the \$1.4 billion in new hockey sold by 1991 franchises. That marketing coup is the doing of Walt Disney Co., the entertainment giant that owns the Ducks. Now, Disney is going behind Russia's legendary Central Red Army

a Russian Program Christmas calendar. It will also offer such merchandise items as actual game sweaters worn by stars (Stanford) and by Red Army team like there are such. "With Disney's marketing, jerseys before us, it can only get better," says Brad Seiden, the U.S. team marketing director for the team. "They're even talking about making a movie involving the Russian Program's." "Cries in 1997."

CALL WAITING

When Brian Mulroney was prime minister, he made a habit of boasting about his campaign with the White House. In 1985, he joined President Ronald Reagan on a morning edition of *Weekend Update*. When George Bush was in traps to ouster Soviet Union's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Mulroney was among the first world leaders to be briefed. How times change. Last week, Bill Clinton announced the deployment of 30,000 U.S. servicemen along the Korean Iraq border in response to an increased Iraqi military presence. The likely support for possible military action there, Clinton



Clinton said

has deployed the leaders of Russia, Britain, France, Egypt, Turkey and Saudi Arabia—to join Prime Minister Jean Charest. That, says Charest's press secretary Terry Donato, does not mean that Canada is now out of the presidential loop. Canada and the United States officials "are still in contact," says Donato. "And with Mr. Charest (the Prime Minister's nephew and ambassador to the United States), the Army knows they have a direct line to Ottawa." But last week, they chose not to use it.

Edited by JANE CHURLEY

PASSAGES

WIN: The broadcaster writer Michael G. Smith's \$1,000,000 Island Golf Prize—the world's richest for golfers who work for *Red and Blending Journeys into the New Nahant*, in a Toronto ceremony last night is the first Canadian to win the five-year-old annual prize for the best book in English that furthers international understanding. Smith's powerful story concerns the misadventure of a man, motivated by a desire to see the world, the former TV producer and director, as well as a filmmaker, Northern Ireland and Quebec. The book is also the focus of a highly acclaimed TV series by Smith.



DEB: Peter and former PQ cabinet minister Gerald Gault, 59, after several years but then been quiet; at his Montreal home in the 1970 provincial election, the first was by the Parti Quebecois. Gault lost then Liberal premier Robert Bourassa's working class riding of Montreal that he held until he retired in 1985. Gault's wife, the former wife, popular singer Dianne Gault, 55, were among several hundred Quebec artists who attended during the 1970 Ontario crisis, but later returned without being charged.

AWARDS: To Japan's *Kenneth* (55), the Nobel Prize for Literature, worth \$2 million, for creating "an imagined world where life and myth combine to form a philosophical picture of the human predicament," by the Swedish Academy of Letters. One of his most moving novels, *A Personal History* (1984), is based on the birth of a year earlier at a brain-damaged man.

RETIRO: Robert MacNeil, 63, as co-anchor of the influential nightly *MacNeil/Lehrer NewHour* on the American PBS-TV network since in October, 1985. The 1980s were his period, broadcaster and author of both fiction and nonfiction. MacNeil says he will devote more time to his writing.

WIN: By Scottish writer James Kelman 44, the Booker Prize. Kelman's new literary award, worth \$40,000, for *How Late It Was, How Late*, in London. The book is a black comedy about a drink who wakes up blind after a police beating.

INDUCTION: Writer Margaret Atwood, 54, in the French Order of Arts and Letters, in a Toronto ceremony. Atwood is the first Canadian author inducted in the 5,000-member order that also includes Canadian Paul Jenkins and Donald Robertson.

BEST-SELLERS

FICITION

1. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
2. *Open Courts*, by Michael Chabon
3. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
4. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
5. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
6. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
7. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
8. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
9. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
10. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon

NONFICTION

1. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
2. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
3. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
4. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
5. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
6. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
7. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
8. *The Golem*, by Michael Chabon
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ANOTHER VIEW



In search of Canadian values

BY CHARLES GORDON

There has been a lot of pamphletism around over Neil Bissoondath's book *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada* (Penguin). Now that the book is officially out, with reviews coming in, there will be much more. Official spokesmen from all and sundry will be weighing in and there will be a debate as to which side people will be aligned.

Good. That's what a debate does. For too long, Canadians have avoided difficult discussions for fear of offending someone. Politics have been made by default, because no one dared argue. Now, there will be an argument over multiculturalism, just as there should be one over the future of Quebec: both within and outside the Canadian Confederation.

If we believe our democratic theories, and multiculturalism will emerge even stronger from the debate if it is a good policy. If it isn't, it won't. Bissoondath, without taking sides, there are points Bissoondath and others make that should be taken seriously.

The most important point is the absence of a strong cultural heritage that newcomers can recognize and respect. Like the Trinidadians born here, Bissoondath, many Canadians who originally came from elsewhere went to already strongly with their own country, and they are having difficulty doing so. This is not just because the multiculturalism bureaucracy gets in the way. It is because what the newcomers are looking for is so diluted, so weakened as to be almost invisible.

Bissoondath quotes G.K. Mead, a Canadianist. Mead's question, "What efforts do our governments make to promote national values? National symbols, that would allow the country to more comfortably absorb immigrants with different values?" Bissoondath also quotes a Globe reader's angry reply: "I suspect Canadians in regard to freedom, honesty, hard work, personal accountability and tolerance are their most cherished values. I am not aware of any immigrant group not subscribing to these ideals. However, I am

sure as to as close to the present television set or shopping centre. At the local arena an American firm has been engaged to run the concessions. The price list includes something called 'hots.' So? Qu'ia? Or qu'ia? It's an Americanism. We'll call it pigs or wild drunks. But we'll probably be calling it hots soon. We have long been familiar with the fact that you can't see a Canadian movie in a Canadian movie theatre.

Worse, far worse, is that young people are coming out of our schools and universities without the education plus of the values upon which our democratic system of government is based. Tolerance, for one, the idea that people are entitled to disagree, and that people who are entitled to disagree are entitled to express their opinions. If teachers are attempting to pass that on, they are not doing much of a job. It is a rare day that we don't teach us a newspaper to find one person or another being bowled down by his or her ideological opponents. It is a rare day that someone doesn't call a dissenter a name.

There are other values we think of as Canadian, a certain feeling for the landscape, a rejection of the machine gun idea, a fondness for order. But tolerance is key.

The tolerance of which we speak used to be thought of as a Canadian virtue, a fact of our life that made dissent more honored here than in the United States, that made it a Canadian strength that could never happen here. The tolerance of which we speak was thought to allow two cultures to live within the houses of a single state, Quebec and the rest of Canada to stay together or separate to disagree.

Lastly, debate has been replaced by name-calling, and the notion of naming or even tolerating one's opponent has fallen into disrepute. Perhaps we will see how much to Neil Bissoondath faces his critics. He will be called names, by those who accuse him of selling out his cultural heritage. And those who accuse him may also be called names by those who accuse him of being too hard, want complete assimilation of all newcomers, or no newcomers at all.

If we want newcomers to respect our values, we have to respect them ourselves, and we are not setting a shining example of it right now. Nor are we effectively communicating those values to the next generation. Maybe it is our obsession with having our children trained to contribute to the economy, maybe it is our fear that the schools will not help them find jobs. Whatever, we are allowing the school system to produce a completely computerized generation with no idea what Canada means, no grasp of the literature, the culture, the political ideas, the democratic values.

Faced with this new environment, it is no wonder some newcomers struggle to hang on to what they left. It is no wonder that many immigrants are asked out on new soil. We are failing to present an attractive alternative. Not only are we not providing what we preach. We are not even providing. It's time to start.

GIVE THEM Maclean's FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

TWISTED LEGACY

Luc Jorett's death ends one mystery

BY BRUCE WALLACE

It is approaching midnight in the darkened Swiss mountain town of Salina, and all, once again, seems to it should be. Postcards of the last departing customers from Marie-Je Pissard's bar echo off the stone building in the narrow main street as the moonlight seeps into the empty back. It is October and Salina's winter has overnight visitors that rise of year. A week ago, the town was swarmed by police investigators and journalists, lured by the mysterious fire that engulfed three chalets just up the main temple, where 25 members of the Order of the Solar Temple cult died. But the outsiders are gone now, leaving those with access on Salina's outskirts alone with their thoughts, which is how when people can get together as they did tonight at Madame Pissard's smoky bar to drink beer and peddle theories about what really happened on Oct. 5. But many residents talk of being nervous when they go home, and of having trouble sleeping. Midnight's stillness, which once brought tranquillity, now heralds anxiety.

So Jean Luc Favre, a local businessman who used to run a first estate office across from Madame Pissard's hotel, wants to walk her home. And in the town the key in the lock, he asks her about their old friend, Dominique Belletton. It was a charming Pissard who identified Belletton's burnt corpse from among the dead, and he thought of her too as a tragic victim of cult leader Luc Jorett's evil manipulations. But new reports from Quebec were alleging that the 36-year-old Belletton was also a murderer who, just before she died, had travelled to Maria Hingst, Que., where, with another cult member, she allegedly killed a man, his wife and their three-month-old son. "Is it possible," Favre asks Pissard, "that the

Dominique you knew, the woman you used to drink coffee with the woman who used to play with my children, is capable of stabbing someone 36 times?"

"Never!" she sips, setting her jaw. "Not possible."

"But she did," Favre says, and an anguished voice cries across his face. "We were duped," he says sadly. "We never knew her at all."

And that is the lesson of the gruesome, disturbing and bizarre tale of the cult of the Solar Temple, the deaths of most of the 53 victims still seem only to show. It was just the hellish devil outside world that demanded a more rational explanation: money, a power struggle, anything tangible. Most people were so different from Jean-Paul Martin, the Salina area streetsman who, while picking through the rubble of the chalets, looking for some scientific insight into the tragedy, muttered "It is hard to speak of love in this affair."

Who, after all, expected Jorett to turn up



DI Mambro, Outgoing; Jorett, smoking remains of chalet near Swiss town of Salina; the deaths of the cult's followers made news only to them



among the dead? Surely he had fled the scene, having killed, or encouraged the suicides of, the others. They had given him their money when they joined his cult, so Jorett must have had millions. Why would he kill himself? But now, surely, there was abundant pathology. Thomas Krenschmer, arriving with satisfaction outside his Lacanase laboratory as he acknowledged that he had indeed positively identified Luc Jorett's charred remains from dental records. "It was not an easy identification," he said.

But there were just as many clues to that mystery, as much room for speculation. Nothing was off limits. (After newspapers reported that Jorett and Joseph Di Mambro, the other senior member of the cult whose body was identified last week, were mixed up with a Sicilian Mafia family. A Radio-Canada reporter, having had many on an anonymous source, announced that the cult was a front for international arms trafficking. News said that Jorett had been contacted for his part in an unsuccessful attempt to buy a handgun in Quebec 78 months ago.)

The likely explanation for the deaths has less Tom Clancy-style intrigue. It appears that most of the cult members died because Jorett was able to convince them that the apocalypse was truly at hand, that authorities in Canada and France were persecuting them, and that salvation could only be obtained by dying together. In the end, the cult appears to have been exactly that: a cult, with its own rituals and twisted beliefs.

Even before Jorett's body was identified, investigators and Canadian government officials were given to speculating on the exact details. What they did take away were the allegations that the cult's leaders were looting money, in particular investigators focused on the myriad bank accounts and properties owned by Di Mambro, a French passport holder who had several properties in Canada and Switzerland. There is plenty of evidence to indicate that Jorett and Di Mambro were flipping parcels of real estate between their large ID.

At the same time, Martin's last home, that Royal Bank of Canada employees were told by the RCMP last March that French police were arrested in Di Mambro's activities. The RCMP did not actively pursue the case because the French either did not know, or would not say, exactly what crime might have been committed. Di Mambro and other cult members had bank accounts scattered across Canada, in the Royal and other banks, as well as in the United States. Some were under Di Mambro's name, others were under some different names with addresses in Switzerland, Montreal, Ottawa and New York City. They included Les Editions Atlanta Inc. and Productions Atlanta. The names of some of those corporate shells have now been linked to the cult, including Robert Outing, the owner of Richelieu, Que., who died in one of the Salina infernos.

In July, a Royal Bank employee at Ottawa's Sparks Street branch, where Di Mambro had consolidated his Canadian accounts, opened a flurry of large deposits. "It's surely the girls who are the front line who are it," said Brian Carroll, the Royal's vice-president of corporate security. "When you are doing the same thing all the time and those transactions start coming up say 'Jorett, this is kind of funny. Why would a guy need this kind of money?'"

The Royal became alarmed because the money kept flowing in from various countries. When confronted on several accounts by Royal officials about the large deposits, Di Mambro offered different excuses. One was that the money was needed for educational fees in Canada for one of his children. "Further investigation revealed this was not the case," said Carroll. "You start

seeing where this money is coming from and you start verifying different sources and everything starts falling into place. We weren't sure if it was a cult or what type of organization they were involved in," Carro said the leak added to many questions that Di Mambro and Dadiagui must have been aware they were under investigation by the time they went to Switzerland last month.

Certainly, the cult members' final days were marked by a flurry of activity and last-minute planning. Although the exact details may never be known, a new source said Joiret and Di Mambro summoned as many of the cult members as possible to Switzerland without divulging their ultimate aim. Since the chalets in Solven and the farmhouse in Cherry, where 23 others died, could not accommodate all the expected ceremonial rites, participants were booked at La Bourne, a chalet in Les Martonnes, a small town near to Solven.

But, k.i.e. of any, members were aware that they were coming for a last supper. Even now, the tomato plants outside the Solven chalets are still covered in plastic against winter. Orders had been placed for winter firewood, and some members of the group had even made inquiries about buying another property in the area. "That doesn't sound like people preparing to kill the natives, does it?" asks Farre.

Di Mambro and Joiret did not attempt to hide their presence in Solven on the days before the fire. Di Mambro made several appearances at one of his favorite haunts, the St. Charles restaurant in nearby Rivière. "He loved our big stone fireplace," and St. Christopher's is a traditional shrine of St. Richard Galois. Di Mambro liked it enough to often bring large groups to the restaurant and he did so again in the last days. He banqueted with 12 others on the Friday before the fire, with 18 companions on Saturday, and dined with another, smaller group on Monday night, including Carole Plus, a retired philanthropic executive who oversaw some of Di Mambro's and Joiret's finances.

The staff knew Di Mambro well. A reader who would only give his first name, Christopher, remembers that Joiret Egger, the convicted cult member who is suspected (along with Dominique Billette) of the Nova Scotia murders, was with the group that ate in the restaurant on the Sunday afternoon before the fire. If Egger is one of the Quebec killers,

he operated under a very tight schedule. Fernande Garud also remembers seeing Lar Joiret that Sunday afternoon. Along with three others, the sect leader sat on the balcony of her Le Bonheur restaurant overlooking Solven for two hours. "They were going around making calls on portable phones, and writing heavily on big, big sheets of paper," she recalls. "I wish now that I had looked at what they were writing."

There are many people in Solven who are casting their minds back, wondering how they could not have been aware of the cult in their midst, searching for missed signals of the cult's struggle to exist. Jean-Luc Ferre, a criminal lawyer, believes he should have known better. More than anyone in Solven, he knows the group which he came to call "The Tribe." As their end came again, he helped them to negotiate Swiss law preventing foreigners from owning property. Like so many others in Joiret's orbit, Ferre says that the home-quake disaster cured him of depression after he separated from his wife by prescribing certain drugs and medicines. Ferre still seemed shocked by the events

SECRET DEALS

Chemin de la Galerie is a pleasant street, much like other pleasant streets in the Laurentian resort district 70 km north of Montreal. The houses stand of solid concrete, draw backs to the wooded slopes, their faces to the valley of the Rivière du Nord. But Chemin de la Galerie is the municipality of Piedmont harbored a little secret for many years, it also led to the notorious Order of the Solar Temple cult.

It began in April, 1987, when Joseph Di Mambro, the so-called godfather of the temple—the body was disintegrated last week as the Swiss town of Granges-sur-Solven—bought a house and lot from local developer Richard Eger for \$200,000. Di Mambro's wife, Jocelyne Duploux, 24 years his junior, was a partner in the purchase and they paid cash. Like many others in the tale of the temple, Di Mambro and Duploux were born in France and came to Canada. Di Mambro's associate, Albert Guichard, and Guichard's wife, Yvonne Simon, bought the adjacent undeveloped lot at No. 123 for \$38,000.

A few months later, in September, Lar Joiret, the Belgian homograph who provided the philosophical underpinnings of the sect, bought the house at No. 123 for \$180,000. Joiret based himself on the deed as the director of a cultural centre.

Joiret and Di Mambro then began a long series of complicated transactions that have aroused the interest of the *Sûreté* du Québec as potential signs that the cult leaders could have been involved in money-laundering. A key participant in several of the deals, St-Sauveur realtor Jean Rousselle, disappeared from view last week after police raided him on Oct. 7. Another participant, St-Lambert accountant Guy Lemieux, refused last week to say anything about his part in the arrangements.

In 1986, Joiret sold his house in Long-Pointe-Vie, a suburb who also refused to talk about his relationship with cult members. "I only



Solven chalet in Mont Tremblant: the cult leaders flipped properties

want peace," he said. Visa paid \$100,000 for the property and took a \$130,000 mortgage from the Royal Bank. He borrowed another \$100,000 from Rousselle and his wife, and last year took out yet another mortgage for \$100,000 from Société Achem, a Swiss company now based in Geneva. In all, Visa borrowed \$330,000 against the house.

Di Mambro's house was also flipped, including one sale to Joiret and Christian Investments, a company based in the British Virgin Islands. In the final sale last year, the house sold for \$286,000, but the purchase closed in 2001. The latest buyer was Lemieux.

With confirmation from Swiss authorities last week that both Joiret and Di Mambro are dead, the full story of the Order of the Solar Temple may never be told. There is, however, a tantalizing explanation for the presence of the sect on Chemin de la Galerie. Di Mambro simply liked the place, Remy says. "It was very peaceful. He liked the view on the mountains."

WEEKEND CANADIAN in Piedmont

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world, it's free to concentrate on what's
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that concerned the people he thought he knew so well. He sold the first chair to Di Mambro around 1986 although the transaction was shrouded through Di Mambro's son Khe, who had a Swiss resident's permit. Originally, the property was tended to by Tony Deinet and his English wife, Nicky. The couple found murdered in Martin Bright's along with their infant son, Emmanuel. "Tony said he was the spiritual child of Di Mambro," recalled Fawcett. "He and his wife father had paid no attention to him."

But at some point—three times it was in 1992—"there was a blurring between Tony and the rest of the group." The Deinet left for Canada and Dominique Bellone arrived to take over the gardening and upkeep of the property. By then, Fawcett was living in the second chalet adjacent to Di Mambro's. Bellone moved into the ground floor apartment in Fawcett's chalet and came to work with Fawcett at his real estate office. "We got along well," says the holding firm, who now does promotions for a Vancouver-based tobacco company. "She told me that she had a travel agency in Canada and wanted to set up a company here to run trips between Canada and Switzerland." Fawcett said he was interested enough in the idea to help Bellone, a Canadian, register the company, although she put up \$5,000 Swiss francs—about \$50,000—of the \$200,000 start-up costs.

The money trail, through bank accounts in several countries, may be all that is left for investigators to go on as they untangle the Solar Temple enigma. So many of the principals are dead. When Patrick Vazquez, a 25-year-old French professional golfer and son of 1960 Olympic gold medalist skier Jean Vazquez, could provide few answers Vazquez was arrested last week after admitting that he had stolen the club's final tests meant in Swiss media as Di Mambro had estimated him. Vazquez said a French magazine that both he and his mother, Edith, were Solar Temple members and could not understand why they, too, had not been summoned for the club's final tests.

There is no shortage of unanswered questions about the peaking Order of the Solar Temple, particularly whether and why money was being hoarded by its leaders. Nor is there yet an explanation of why some members were shot while others were dragged and how many were willing to try their ends. There was certainly nothing voluntary about the deaths of three-month-old Emmanuel Deinet. "You know, I was in pretty bad shape when I introduced Don Miguel's body," said Fawcett. "And I was thinking that because she said she had no body, I'd take her body somewhere here in the mountains—not in Solana but somewhere around here—and give her a proper burial. But not now." Confusion and sadness had been replaced by anger. "Not after what she did to that baby," he said. "I guess there were two Dominiques, and I only knew one other."

After the Politics of Anger that characterized much of the early 1990s, the Politics of Deinet have struck a resounding chord. A recent Angus Reid poll indicated that 71 per cent of respondents approve the job Christian is doing. This has happened despite—or perhaps because of—a decidedly modest record of legislative

Tough times ahead

During Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's visit to England last June, he stopped out of his hotel for a few hours in cooler London.



BACKSTAGE OTTAWA

BY ANTHONY WALTON SMITH

achievements in the past year.

It is an odd mix of governing that you make as many tough decisions as possible in the first year of a mandate as

that voters will have as long as possible to forgive, or forget, them. It has also been clear for more than a year that the Parti Québécois is not a threat for power in Quebec. Despite such considerations, the Liberals delayed dramatic action on the two most urgent, controversial issues facing them: the need to reform housing reform, the size of social programs, and the need to reduce the size of the federal deficit.

On these fronts, the Liberal strategy amounts to the reverse of another traditional notion: they speak loudly, but carry a small stick. Despite the fact that the Liberal government has been successful in its release, Minister Jean Chrétien's discussion paper on reforming social programs failed to address the only question that matters before any further discussion: how much money will be cut from them? By refusing to give a figure, the Liberals have indicated to all levels of government and advisers Finance Minister Paul Martin's efforts to reduce the deficit and soothe international money markets.

Already, the political and economic outlook for the next few months appears depressingly easy to predict. Based on recent polls, the next poll in Quebec will almost certainly show an increase in support for sovereignty. That will come at the same time as money markets because increasingly sunny about what Martin will do with his February budget. Simultaneously, Australia's countryside hearings on social program reform will meet well-orchestrated waves of protest. That will, in turn, speak Liberal MPs and create doubts about the government's willingness to stay the course on reduction plans. All of the above will lead to a lower dollar, higher interest rates, a slowing of the economy and unexpected growth in the deficit. In short, it will be clear why the Chinese saying "you live in interesting times" is considered a curse.

One the Liberals their due for the way they have dealt with the policy issues that they are reasonably confident at the art of doing nothing. Hopefully, it is not their only area of expertise.



CHRISTIAN

Christian: he has succeeded in being dull

can ever be as described like that?"

In fact, as Christian approaches the first anniversary of his Oct. 26 election win, he qualifies in one sense. As an American statesman, former secretary of state Dean Acheson once deeply admired. "The first requirement of a statesman is that he be dull. This is not always easy to achieve," said Christian, who has modest, weary air and not much of a recitable vocabulary and cliché, has largely succeeded.

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PHOTO BY JAMES FLETCHER AND LIZZY FLETCHER FOR CIBC



Adams in Toronto
"We have to look
forward, not back."

The charm offensive

When Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams held a press conference to check for the ticking of a bomb, the largely Irish-Catholic crowd that had gathered to hear him speak at the University of Toronto last week roared with laughter. But the sight of Adams whose party is the political voice of the southern Irish Republican Army (IRA), drawing laughs with a speech bomb may soon become a thing of the past. For in reality, Adams is actually making a determined effort to take backstabbing and violence out of the politics of Northern Ireland. More than 3,000 people have died in the IRA's 25-year-long struggle to reunite the North with the Irish Republic. And despite the fact that the IRA declared a ceasefire on Aug. 31, Adams has been unable to bring the British government to the negotiating table. But last week, Protestant paramilitary groups in Ulster accused us strengthening Adams' position and put more pressure on the British, when they also agreed to withdraw their guns. "We're approaching a new century," Adams told *Maclean's*. "It is time to get the conflict behind us in a free Ireland."

Adams had been touring the United States and Canada since Sept. 24 in an attempt to

build support for the ceasefire. And throughout the tour, his name was associated with a number of powerful Americans. In Washington, he met with Vice President Al Gore and a number of influential senators—and in Los Angeles he played into the evening with influential entertainment moguls. While the United States granted Adams an entrance visa last February, he had been repeatedly denied entry to Canada because of his connections to the IRA. But on Oct. 7, following a strenuous lobbying effort by his supporters in the Irish community across Canada, Adams was finally allowed into the country. The following day in Vancouver, he addressed 175 members of the city's Irish Irish community. He then flew to Toronto where he addressed Irish-speaking members of the

Irish community before concluding his North American tour at Montreal where he briefed Quebec's Irish leaders on the Irish situation.

Part of Adams' strategy is to gain international recognition for the IRA's actions to resolve the Irish problem by other means. Figures including P.D. Chairman, Eamon Doyle and South African President Nelson Mandela, who were once dismissed as terrorists. In fact, Adams was introduced at the University of Toronto by

Nelson Mandela, the representative of Mandela's African National Congress in Canada. Mandela compared the Catholic struggle for justice in Northern Ireland to the repression of Blacks in South Africa. And Adams later told *Maclean's* that if black South Africans can find peace, there is no reason the Catholics of Northern Ireland. "No conflict is intractable," said Adams. "What happened in the Middle East and South Africa can surely happen in Northern Ireland as well."

Unlike Mandela, however, Adams is not welcome everywhere he goes. And as he arrived at the Board of Trade meeting in Vancouver, about 20 people protesting his visit to the site surrounded his car. "It would like to shoot him," said one. Three days later at the University of Toronto, in response to a question from the audience that addressed his involvement in the IRA, he said the number of Sinn Féin members who have been murdered. But he

to the violence was for both Protestants and Catholics to lay down their arms. "We have to look forward, not backward," said Adams.

Last week, Protestant paramilitary groups including the Ulster Freedom Fighters and Ulster Volunteer Force, apparently agreed with Adams and also declared a ceasefire. They will discontinue part-time training in the North and the Protestant paramilitary will withdraw its army for all political prisoners. But so far, British Prime Minister John Major has refused to even consider that proposal. Despite such obstacles, Adams insisted that peace is at hand, and that Protestants and Catholics will soon be living together in harmony. Said Adams: "What turns the future government takes it up to the Irish people, including the Protestants."

The Canadian government welcomed the new Irish peace initiative. Adams was allowed into Canada only after he agreed not to speak to any politicians or news sources for Sinn Féin. But Foreign Affairs Minister Acland-Coleville said the IRA and their Protestant counterparts also have a "historic opportunity" to achieve peace. Adams agreed Ottawa to get more directly involved in the peace process by putting pressure on London to negotiate. He added that Ottawa's decision to let him into the country was an indication that the IRA's rejection of any peace agreement will be a sign for success of Ireland, where Protestant and Catholic peace movements are making peace.

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MOTOROLA

The Tories' 'Weekend from Hell'

An insider tells how Conservatives squabbled their way to defeat



When the last federal election campaign began on Sept. 6, 1992, the ruling Progressive Conservatives and Liberals were neck and neck in the polls and Prime Minister Kim Campbell was the country's most popular politician under Progressive days later, the Tories took the worst drubbing in Canadian electoral history, winning only two of the 265 seats in the House of Commons.



Campbell showed her campaign how stark ads embarrassed her

Grand McLaughlin was a senior adviser to Campbell and tangled with her during the disastrous campaign. In a new book, *Poisoned Chalice: The Last Campaign of the Conservative Party*, published by Doubleday Press, he writes that Campbell and the Tories were undone by factors that included deep mistrust between the leader and her top inside advisers. McLaughlin, 37, is now vice-president of Toronto Communications, a consulting firm in Toronto. In this excerpt he discusses the chaos of the Tory campaign.

DAY 38, FRIDAY, OCT. 15, MONTREAL

Prime Minister Kim Campbell began what she thought was a Tory would have been the "Weekend from Hell" lighting a fire storm created by her political campaign. Unbeknownst to anyone on the ground, the CBC national news was running a story on the new tactics of the Conservative campaign: two probably-harsh attack ads on Liberal Leader Jean Chretien. To say the new ads were controversial was a supreme understatement. The most noticeable feature was the use of humiliating photographs of Chretien's face that gave him a leprosy, almost neutral look. The allusion to a childhood disease that left Chretien deaf in one ear and blind in the other had been thrust through his side of his mouth was automatically clear to many people.

In the minds of the Tory strategists who conceived the ads, however, Chretien's disability was not the focus. Yet, the main concern was to achieve: "I would be embarrassed with this man as Prime Minister," one said. Many, both in and outside the Conservative party, felt that the attack on Chretien's disability was deplorable, and the claims offensive by party strategists John Tory and Mike Savage were disingenuous at best.

Despite her poor campaign, no one was more personally embarrassed than Kim Campbell. Together with the tour staff, she was

'Image had become reality. The Tories were trapped by their own circular thinking.'

caught completely off guard by the ads. Campbell was neither informed nor part of the decision to produce them in advance. This was typical of the way the Tory campaign was being run. It was the typical of Campbell's own hands-off management style when it came to electioneering. Yet, it was reflective of her early decision to rely on the party. It was equally so of those senior Tory officials and strategists who were determined not to consult her on such decisions. Indeed, the decision was particularly clearly held involving Greer as political and chief strategist and Tim Scott, the party's advertising agent. Scott (a former Tory only saw the script of the ads and never reviewed the completed product prior to their airing). Focus testing of the ads began after they were shipped to television stations for airing. This whole process was either a deliberate attempt to preserve deniability for the Prime Minister should they backfire (which they did) or was a mass delusion of a "policy broke" mentality founded on a complete misunderstanding of the use and effect of such types of ads.

The calls to campaign headquarters and the Prime Minister's tour began early Friday morning. One cabinet minister, Bernard Valcourt, called saying sternly that the ads be pulled. Another, Public Security Minister Doug Young, issued a press release demanding the ads be pulled. The next day, the Tories were in a state of confusion. Spontaneously, local candidates phoned their provincial headquarters urging them to press Ottawa to halt the now highly uncomfortable ads. It was a view that resonated from coast to coast. In

THE HUMAN JOURNEY CONTINUES.

Does this ad really exist? Or is it just a mere illusion? This week, host Arthur Kent explores the mystery of the very heart of magic.

MAN ALIVE
With host Arthur Kent

CBC Television THURSDAY 7:30PM (8 IN NFLD.)

British Columbia, Steve Greenway, the party's provincial campaign manager, was chairing a biweekly strategy meeting at 7:30 a.m. when the phones "lit up" with info calls. One Tory volunteer was "in tears" on the phone. Greenway was mandated to call Obama demanding that the ads be pulled.

Greenway's response was to blast Tory candidates for being stoic, while the opposition "cheerful soldiers," asking if the first heat of battle was truly toward around in reference to such Tories. Greenway believed the Prime Minister would soon pull the ads himself and decided not to use the heat defending them over to him by instead to devote Tina Tuckwell. "They [conservative] had no credibility at this point in the campaign," he smiled.

When thus being attacked by the Liberals and the media, the Conservative campaign was now being invaded by its own supporters. The immediate reaction of campaign headquarters was to launch defense. The phone calls were being answered by the Liberals, they told fellow Conservatives. Don't get spooked, went the advice. Prepared lines, similar to those given the Prime Minister, asked that the pictures used of Clinton were so wrong that she was seen on that week's cover of *Maclean's*.

Images had become reality in the Conservative campaign. It was not the Tories saying these things it was other people. They could not help the way Clinton looked. Besides, if the media ran the photos as a negative, then it was obviously good enough to use in party advertising, never add the difficult context. The Tory campaigners had become trapped by their own circular thinking. The polls were real, nothing else.

Any way the campaign cut it, the ads would not work. First, the ads were 180 degrees off the time of politics for which Kim Campbell ostensibly stood. They could only hurt her credibility further. Second, the party itself—candidates and volunteers—were not prepared to align themselves behind them. Third, the ads ended the moral high ground to Jean Chrétien, who was bringing tears to the eyes of Liberal supporters that morning with a highly personal account of growing up with his disability. "God gave me this disability," he declared, grasping one Tory member to say ruefully, "Christina has been waiting for 30 years to make that speech and we let her."

By the stage of the election campaign, a clear schism between campaign headquarters and the Prime Minister's team was apparent. Although unspoken, each felt the other was undermining their efforts either through active disobedience to campaign direction, poor execution, indifferent support for the Prime Minister's efforts, or worse, running a campaign without listening to the Prime Minister's wishes. It was the inevitable product of a living campaign.

This stood played out in the decision to

OFTEN, THOSE WHO WIN IN BUSINESS HAVE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE

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NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE YOU
CAN GET.

WE CAN

HELP WHEN YOU'RE DOING
BUSINESS ON THE GO AND
DELTA CHISELA ISN'T
FORGET BUSINESS TRAVELERS
WITH ADVANTAGES LIKE
BURNER PHONE, ROOM &
COMFORTABLE AND EFFICIENT
OUR AREA WITH A 24 HOURS
MACHINE POWER HAS DATA
POINTS, BATHROOMS, LIGHTING
AND THEN A PORTABLE
PHONE ON YOUR PHONE.
THE BUSINESS ZONE OFFICE
PROVIDES A COMPUTER
PRINTER AND CORDS IN
HOURS A DAY.



SOMETIMES THE BEST
ADVANTAGE YOU CAN HAVE
IS A CHANCE TO GET AWAY
FROM IT. REACH FOR YOUR
BATTERED.

ONE

GIANT PLACE TO DO THAT IS
ONCE IT INCLUDES TO
GUESTS IN AND OLDER BACK
IT INCORPORATES A POOL
W/BLINDS, SHOWER AND
THE LATEST IN KITCHEN
EQUIPMENT, BATHROOMS
A BATHING LUNGE AND
OUTDOOR SPACE THAT
OVERLOOKS THE CITY AND
THE LAKE.



Delta
Chelsea Inn



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SERVICES CENTRE OFFERING
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GIVE YOU

ALL THE HELP YOU NEED
SCOTTISH ISLAND IS ON
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COASTAL YOUR INCLEMENTS.
THEY'LL ALSO ALONG
COMFORTABLE ROOMS MEETING
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Chelsea Means Business

pull the ads. Arriving in Quebec City for a speech to the Chamber of Commerce not having seen the ads, Campbell was brought by the media demanding to know if she was going to pull them. At that point, the commission decisions, perception and differences in opinion between the tour and headquarters exposed themselves. Upon arrival at the hotel, Campbell reassured herself in her suite with her senior tour advisers. After debating the pros and cons of pulling the ads off the air, she phoned Tory and Green to let them of her decision to halt the ads. Both felt that they were owed a full opportunity to put the case to Campbell for keeping the ads. They believed her decision had been orchestrated in advance before the Prime Minister even made the call. To the tour, there was little doubt what she would do: the media pressure on the road, plus her own disconnection towards the kind of politics represented by the ads, made her decision clear. Campbell advised them pulled while privately telling her campaign team that they retained her confidence. No heads would roll despite more public call for change by Conservatives.

The next step was to announce the decision. In her suite, she had been advised strongly (particularly by her senior advisers Patrick Kinsella and John White) to apologize to Clinton for the ads, since everyone knew the order would ask this question anyway. She seemed to agree but did not explicitly say so. A provocative comment would allow her to reclaim some of the high road. As Campbell made her way to the elevator to head downstairs for her media scrums, White suddenly realized that Campbell had not actually apologized. She would apologize. Running down the hotel corridor to catch up to her, White asked, "Are you going to apologize?" "That's a good idea," the Prime Minister responded, as she turned to face the elevator.

Facing the media, Campbell rather forgot or, for a moment, changed her mind. She began by announcing her decision to pull the ads, saying they were not consistent with the type of message she was carrying. Campbell then turned away from the waiting microphones to return upstairs. She was not going to take any questions. Immediately, the media started firing questions after her apology, beginning with the apology. Campbell halted and turned back to the expectant press, making the requisite apology. "If Mr. Chrétien or any others have been offended in any way," she turned to her heels. The image captured for the news that night showed a female, grinning at best, apology that barely resembled any inceptive feelings others might have had towards Campbell and her party once the whole affair.

The Prime Minister returned upstairs in her suite, alone with longtime adviser Pat Kinsella, she briefly broke down. Told of this later, no one on the tour could blame her. Most felt the same way. □

Q

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5

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Canada

NOTES

Help from a psychic

A Vancouver area psychic helped to guide police to a shallow grave containing the body of an eighteen-year-old girl who disappeared on Aug. 17 in Kelowna, B.C. The body of Blainy Trust was found in a wooded park, a few blocks from her home after the psychic, whose police would not identify, telephoned with a tip on the location of the grave. The girl disappeared while on her way to a friend's house in the Glenmore area.

The discovery of the body did not end the case. Instead, it set off speculation that Minsky might have been the victim of a serial killer stalking children and young women in the West. Police said there was no evidence linking her death to any other recent unsolved murders. But newspapers in British Columbia reported that there may be a pattern involving sev-

in other killings and unsolved disappearances. They include children as young as four and women as old as 35, and occurred in southern British Columbia and Alberta between March, 1991, and last July.

Police downplayed that speculation. "Definitely we have not made any link at this point in time," RCMP spokesman Sgt. Peter Montague said late last week. Still, officials at one western police bureau—those in Van-



Reform stays federal

Dilemma to a Reform party conference in Vancouver decided to stay out of provincial politics. Meeting in Ottawa, they reject by a vote of 165 to 64 a motion that would have opened the party to forming provincial Reform parties. The party's decision not to proceed was pleasing by the result, saying that Reform was new concentrate on winning the next local election. "It indicates our members want to stick to our main mission, which is to build a federal party, build a right across the country party," says the party's president. But delegates who wanted to form provincial parties—particularly in British Columbia and Ontario—said Reform had missed a crucial moment and warned that staying out of the federal level will allow the Progressive Conservatives to rebuild their shattered party with help from the Reform party.

"I think we hurt ourselves if we don't go where the opportunity is there," said Reg Goss, head of the Reform Association of Ontario. "I think we have made a bad error in judgment. I think it's going to hurt us in the long run." At least 100 delegates in the 300-member Reform party conference in Vancouver.

Martin of British Columbia—openly favored provincial expansion. At the same meeting, Manning suggested that one of the provinces should try scrapping the minimum wage to see if a crosser job. He said he believed that employment would increase if salary levels were set by the marketplace rather than by provincial governments.

Pricing separation

... lending. Quebec economists estimated that separations could cost Quebecers an extra \$1.6 billion a year for the first few years after independence. Pierre Fortin, a professor of economics at the University of Quebec in Montreal, and the loss of extra spending by Ottawa in Quebec would be \$1.8 billion, lost taxes and revenue would be \$1.5 billion, and the loss of extra sales taxes would be \$1.3 billion, and tax administration costs would be \$300 million. "Quebec sovereignty will create a short-term economic slowdown in the province which will definitely affect public finances and the provincial deficit," Fortin wrote. He conducted the study in 1992 but decided not to release it until after the recent Quebec election. "I don't think the government supports neither the idea nor the fact that Quebec is a lost cause,"



THE BATTLE OVER

CENSORSHIP

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

For the star of such off-the-wall comedies as *Glitterhouse* and *My Stepmother the A-List*, it was an appropriately bizarre homecoming. Decked out in black pants, a black shirt and a black leather jacket, Dan Aykroyd pulled into Ottawa's downtown World Exchange Plaza last week on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle with Ottawa Mayor Jacques Holmten graciously in tow. In a ceremony attended by 1,000 admiring fans, the 42-year-old Ottawaborn star was given a key to the city that he left two decades ago to seek comedy fame and fortune in Toronto, New York City and finally Hollywood. But he was also swarmed by reporters wanting to know his thoughts about last week's decision by Saskatchewan censors to ban his new comedy, *Exit to Eden*, about a sadomasochistic holiday resort. While dutifully denying what he called "an infringement on rights," the actor could not conceal a certain pique at the turn of events in his home country. "It's great publicity for the film," he said.

As it turned out, *Exit to Eden* opened in Saskatchewan as well as the rest of North America last Friday—to decidedly lukewarm reviews. Following intense media scrutiny, a rarely assembled provincial review panel finally overturned the Oct. 11 ruling by the Saskatchewan Film and Video Classification Board. But that finding did little to quell an increasingly acrimonious debate over the right of government censors to determine what Canadians have the right to see or read. Indeed, last week's events in Saskatchewan simply underscored the quickly archaic nature of much of the official censorship that goes on in Canada, as one group of loosely organized, unaccountable, provincial appointees overruled another group of equally obscure officials—without engaging



Aykroyd in his Toronto media career comes illustrating the age-old censorship relationship.

in a nationwide or public debate. "There is something very Canadian about this," said Robert Foy, who served as chairman of the Ontario Film Review Board between 1980 and 1990, and who personally supports stripping censor boards of their power in his film. "It's a paternalistic attitude. In other parts of the world, the Canadians, they wonder as the situation we have such problems with sex."

Foreign working aside, the debate over censorship in Canada remains deadly earnest. And with two landmark cases swirling their way through the courts last week in Vancouver and Toronto, the issue of who decides public morality promises to remain near the top

In Toronto, meanwhile, Justice David McCord's of the Ontario Court's general decision as being used to rule on an even more explosive aspect of the censoring debate: Is it possible for artistic expressions, if suitably processed, to provide individuals to consent created acts, including sexual sexually abused children? In the first major test of a tough new child pornography law passed by the House of Commons in June, 1990, McCord must decide whether five life-size paintings and 35 smaller drawings by Toronto artist Ed Langeir violate that law by depicting children in sexually compromised positions. Langeir's paintings, cast in warm hues of red, yellow

of the public agenda for some time to come. In the Vancouver case, the owners of Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium, Western Canada's only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore, were asking B.C. Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Smith to strike down the entire system under which Canadian customs officials routinely inspect incoming materials—including videos, magazines and books—to determine whether they are obscene. Little Sister's, which has seen hundreds of its imported books seized or seized by customs officials since it opened in 1985, claims that it is being unfairly singled out because it deals in gay material.

EXIT TO EROTICA

The premiere reviews on *Exit to Eden* were in and, for the producers of the Hollywood comedy starring Canadian Dan Aykroyd, the word was not good. In fact, influential Chicago-based film critic Roger Ebert called the adult comedy "boring" and gave the movie only half a star. Then, along came marketing help from a totally unexpected source and interest in the movie exploded just as it was to open on 1,400 screens across Canada and the United States.

Aggravated with an R rating, retooling it to meet viewers 18 and older, in every other province, *Exit to Eden* was briefly banned in Saskatchewan last week when the provincial Film and Video Classification Board announced it was banning the movie because of questioned unacceptable scenes of sadomasochism. Word about the ban spread like a prairie fire. For two-day phone-ins at the normally quiet film classification office, tucked away in a nondescript government building in downtown Regina, kept ringing as citizens registered outrage and protest for the decision.

That stopped when a three-member appeal panel overturned the ruling. But the debate over censorship was certain to rage on. The mere fact that two government-appointed bodies could disagree on the public merits of the movie demonstrated the difficulties of trying to define public morality. "The whole idea of banning a film is misguided," said University of Regina film professor Richard Kent. Indeed, Saskatchewan Justice Minister Bob Mitchell said the controversy in Italy is used to an examination of the powers of the film board.

Based on a novel by Anne Rice, *Exit to Eden* is billed as an adult comedy set on a tropical

island where people come to have their kinky sex fantasies fulfilled. Aykroyd and co-star Rose O'Donnell play two mismatched cops sent to pose as sex-thrill-seekers while they pursue a jewel thief to the island of ill repute. In its original decision, the five-member classification board singled out certain parts of the movie as unacceptable. They included a man "spanking a boy," a character named Mistress Lisa having a "handbook about 'submissiveness and control,'" and Mistress Lisa using a hairbrush to spank a man tied up with ropes.

The decision marked the first time since 1976 that a mainstream Hollywood movie was banned in Saskatchewan (that time it was *Pretty Baby*, which starred a young Brooke Shields as a child prostitute) in overturning the ban on *Exit to Eden*, the appeal panel said it believed the movie suited community standards. "It was a comedy, after all," noted appeal panel member Don List, Supermodel man, who (mistakenly in the movie, p. 11) says, "This is not an S and M movie. This is S and M Lite."

As always in such matters, morality is in the eye of the beholder. Giving *Exit to Eden* a thumbs-down, Ebert noted the movie's S and M scenes "lacking, lifeless characters" that ranked as "practically family entertainment." Now, at least, Saskatchewan regulators will be able to make up their own minds

DANIEL ELLER in Regina

■ **Dane Delany as Mistress Lisa** rated R



upheld what it saw as the public interest of the day. Over the years, that meant that customs officials, for example, let postcards sent away from girls' magazines in slinky clothes (including James Joyce's *Oceanic* in the 1930s and Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* three decades later). More recently, the stated purpose of censorship efforts has been to protect women, children and vulnerable minorities from potential harm (page 38).

If/whether the rationale, the debate continues to arouse deep—and often—passion on both sides. For civil libertarians and those in the arts community, the central issue is freedom of expression. "Art has to be able to show the end of the human condition," says Alan Borsanyi, general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. "The whole point of art is to hold up the human condition for us to examine it. Art cannot be confined to the purveyor of virtue." On the other side are those who believe that some form of censorship is essential to curb the dark forces in society. "The police just broke the back of a child pornography ring in London, Ont., and Toronto. It was selling videos," says Debra Smith, president of the Canadian For Decency, a national anti-porn organization. "And yet there is no element of the judiciary that says those videos have to be shown because they are artistic. Where do we draw the line?"

The Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium is located in a small building near the corner of Theatrical and Davis streets in Vancouver's densely populated west end. The



Little Sister's needs all the money it can get. Last week, four years after the store's owners, along with the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, filed with municipal Council, the case finally went to court. The store claims that Canada Customs' practice of detaining material before it has been deemed obscene violates Charter of Rights guarantees.

civil liberties act," she says. "It's not possible to scratch each other and spread it."

The inspection practices of Canada Customs do represent one of the oldest and most-often forms of censorship in the country—prohibiting Confederation-era Statute in 1840, customs was given the power to block entry of material it considered to be

the start of the Little Sister's raid—that Revenue Canada issued a memorandum removing small advertisements from its guidelines.

The Little Sister's case has attracted the attention of prominent and controversial figures across the country. Among the wit voices being cited by the plaintiffs are such distinguished authors as Pierre Berton, Neil Sheel and Joe Foweraker. In a recent novel, *The Young and the Damned*, Aron, was seized by customs in 1990. Berton told *Maclean's* last week that he

was preparing for his testimony by reading one of the books recently detained by Canada Customs before it could reach Little Sister's. "They had to business seeing the book at all," said Berton. He dismissed it as a sort of treatment of issues facing the gay community. "It's corrupting and appalling that customs people should act as censors."

The Langer case, if anything, highlights an even more bizarre aspect of Canada's censorship laws. For two weeks ending last Friday, reporters, artists and curious onlookers crowded into a downtown Toronto court room—at times spilling over onto the jury and gallery floors—to watch the unfolding spectacle of art on trial.

The criminal charges that were originally laid against the 29-year-old Langer and Mercer Union Gallery director Sharon Brooks followed a police raid last December where allegedly developed and sold the bookends in the case are Langer's stark creation (the case is described on court dockets as being between "Paintings, drawings and photographic slides of drawings and 'Her Majesty the Queen'").

Justice McCarroll is presiding by the Crown's arguments that Langer's art is pornography, he can order them destroyed. The prosecution relied heavily on the testimony of three experts in the field of pornography and other sexually deviant behavior. Peter Collins, a forensic psychiatrist at Vancouver's Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, testified that it was his "diagonal launch" that the mere graphic such depictions like Langer's because the women likely they will represent deviant fantasies among pedophiles. Mercer Union's artistic director of the Winnipeg Social Behavior Clinic, echoed this view, pointing to his own 1988 study that found that 38 per cent of sex offenders reported that use of pornography helped remove inhibitions to committing an offence. However, Mercer Union contends that the study's 1987-88 was small and that, to date, "no demonstrable causal relationship" between

SPEAKING OUT

Protesters' Canadian register their dissent on censorship and pornography



Pierre Berton
Author

"I don't think any civil servant at the border has the right to tell me what I should or should not read. We don't need any kind of pornography law on the books at all."

Cecilia Forsyth

President, 1800 Women Of Canada

"Censorship is unacceptable and implicit in any society. We penalize people who rape, steal or slander. That is all a form of censorship. We believe in a society that we have a legitimate right to curb those who exploit sexuality."

Jane Calwood

Author and activist

"I was opposed to the new law against child pornography. We were all horrified at how broad and vague it was, and it wasn't unexpected that it would be abused more than used. Or that it would not, in any meaningful way, protect children."



Nina Ricci

Activist

"Inevitably, obscenity laws end up being interpreted by people who we would not necessarily want to have the power to decide what we are going to see or what we are going to read."

Judy Staud

Journalist and author

"People don't realize what we are really talking about when we talk about child pornography. There are videos of adults urinating and defecating on children. This is why it is so unfortunate that the Langer case is the case that everyone is talking about. I wish he had never been charged. Straight middle-class people don't even know what the pornography are doing."

pornography and sexual offences has not been established.

Defence lawyers, by contrast, concentrated mainly on establishing that Langer's work has "artistic merit" in view of the division against obscenity under the child pornography law. A number of his fellow artists testified that, however disturbing his images, they were just art—products of the imagination that the state has no right to destroy. Another key defence witness, former CBC chairman Philip Witkov, strongly suggested that under the strict wording of the law—which attracts the explicit depiction of the genitals of those who are 16 or younger—Michalowski's masterpiece, the statue *David*, could be banned in Canada. "Personally, I don't know how old he [David] is," said Witkov. "He's a young man. He is 17, 18, 19."

One of the clearest issues about the censorship debate is that many of those who oppose such regulation are, at the same time, among the most vocal advocates of the kind of people that the anti-obscenity laws are supposed to protect. Cole Jane Calwood, the 70-year-old feminist author from Toronto who has spent a lifetime championing the rights of the disadvantaged. Yet, Calwood was one of the first to speak up on behalf of Langer when he was arrested, she was also one of the sharpest opponents of Ottawa's child pornography law when it was introduced. To Calwood, many of the censorship initiatives are simply stand-ins for government inaction on the real problems facing society. "The law is a very good way to create a separate law in the Criminal Code against obscenity charges," she says, "only they were careless."

Others are still groping for a middle way. Senate Sherri-Klein is a Vancouver-based film maker who directed *Let's Love Sex*, an award-winning 1981 National Film Board documentary that was extremely critical of the pornography industry. "Censorship is not the way to go," said Sherri-Klein. "My film was censored in Ontario. It's very clear how things can be taken out of context by people who are not artists and are very far-sighted." On the other hand, she is supportive of anti-obscenity legislation that is better defined than the current offerings—and would go after those who are producing truly obscene material. "The real drawback," said Sherri-Klein, "is to have a public discussion and not a secret one with different points of view." Thanks to the two widely disputed obscenity cases now before the courts, and last week's interventions by the Saskatchewan courts, Canadians may finally get just that.

With GARY FORTMEYER in Ottawa, ROBIN ARZULI in Vancouver and PATRICIA CRAWFORD and TOM FENNELLO in Toronto

IT'S ENRAGING AND APPALLING THAT CUSTOMS PEOPLE SHOULD ACT AS CENSORS

main store is on the second floor, up a flight of crinkly wooden stairs. To the casual visitor, it is quickly apparent that this is no mainstream bookstore. For one thing, sexual aids and an array of condoms are on display, as are raucous videos and magazines. And while the bookshelves boasts the usual selection of bestsellers and non-fiction, the shelves also contain such eye-opening titles as *Black & Blue*, a book about "looking for My Right," and *Big Man*, about a woman who loves a man who loves a man. Downstairs, the people who are covered with posters heralding art openings and seminars. There is also an ad for a "video review table" at explicit sites, the proceeds of which are to go to the "Little Sister's defense fund."

ters of freedom of expression. It also states that customs officials violate the charter's guarantee of equality by unfairly discriminating against artists, writers, readers and distributors of gay erotica.

The evidence for the latter claim, says Little Sister's manager Julie Fuler, is that many of the titles recently detained by Canada Customs—including *Freeway*, a Penguin collection of women's erotic fiction, and a biography of Noel Coward—have been successfully ignored by some mainstream stores without incident. She believes that customs officers select which publishers they search based on whom they are addressed to. "Once identified, people going to experience a different sense of what your

interest, interest, sexuality or transgression. Those powers have changed little over the intervening years—and have often been applied in ways that critics say have failed to keep pace with legal precedents on obscenity. For example, when they act dealing with questionable material, Canada's 4,000 customs officers use a lens that divides obscenity into a checklist of categories. One of the categories has had routinely censored material detained for gay bookshops like Little Sister's is a prohibition against the depiction or description of anal intercourse. Although a bookshop obviously ruled by the Supreme Court in 1980. It is, Butler, made it clear that such a prohibition was invalid. It was not until Sept. 29—just 11 days before



A Montreal adult video shop is now equipped as a library of expression.

SEX AND THE LAW

BY PAUL KAHILA

JUDGES SET THE STANDARDS ON OBSCENITY

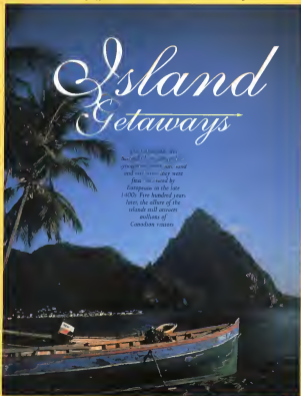
The *Ultra Great Sex for Less* tape costs \$29.95 at Video-X, a shop in downtown Toronto that sells dirty movies, books and magazines, as well as high-leverage looking sex toys. In one scene, two muscular men have sadomasochistic and racial overtones with a woman. The video is one of the store's hottest sellers, along with a 25-tape series featuring repeated scenes of men ejaculating onto women's faces. To many Canadians, the material is on the wrong side of the line that divides erotica from sex. And in fact, until a little more than two years ago, Toronto police were routinely seizing such tapes—and signing convictions under Canada's obscenity law against the merchants who sell them. But all that changed in 1992 with a landmark Supreme Court of Canada case called *R. v. Butler*. The ruling in effect said that prod-

ucts like *Ultra Great Sex for Less* are protected from prosecution because of the guarantee of freedom of expression in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The judgment represented a sea change in the definition of obscenity: not to mention the range of movies, books, magazines, recordings, paintings and other forms of expression that Canadians are entitled to buy. Since 1920, all cultural products have been subject to the obscenity law found in Subsection 1 of Section 293 in Canada's Criminal Code. It categorically says that a work is obscene—and illegal—if one of its

dominant characteristics involves "the undue exploitation of sex." Over and over, obscene material carries a maximum penalty of two years in jail. How to define "undue exploitation of sex," many write, has been the subject of millions of dollars' worth of litigation over the past few decades. During that time, it fell to judges to reflect the moral standards of the community, and in the words of a 1980 Supreme Court ruling, bring a "general assessment" of what is decent and what is indecent "in society's eyes. Which is another way of saying that obscenity is in the eye of the beholder—and varies with the times."

In the early 1980s, for instance, Quebec courts ruled that D. B. Lawrence's classic novel of adultery and prostitution, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, was obscene—a decision that was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court. After literary critics, editors and writers championed the book's artistic merits, the court narrowly ruled 5 to



Island Getaways

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and sea, they were
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1400s. Five hundred years
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islands will attract
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Discover Cayman Brac. Where divers delight, beachcombers search and hikers climb upward for a view from our bluff.

And Little Cayman. Where divers fish from our towering waterfalls, bubbling hot springs and curious caves. Among the most unusual geographical attractions are President's Pitch Lake, a 40-hectare natural pool of hot black tar and the limestone hills and hollows of Jamaica's Cockpit Country.

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"Those who know us, love us."

The Caribbean and Bermuda offer more than just sunny skies and wonderful weather all year round. The islands are stunning landscapes, friendly people, sumptuous cuisine, great shopping and a myriad of activities ranging from mild to wild. Explore all that the islands have to offer and discover a bit of paradise.

With its endless stretches of enticing beaches and a warm turquoise sea, the Caribbean does live up to its reputation as a tropical oasis. The true beauty of the Caribbean lies in its diversity. Islands range in size from Cuba (104,845 sq. km.) to the petite Saba (5 sq. km.) and span from the pine-tree covered mountains of the Dominican Republic to the sand pits that barely reach sea level. Around every corner, the mysteries of the Caribbean are waiting to unfold and delight.

The glorious beaches of the Caribbean are famous the world over, but the area also plays host to gentle cascading waterfalls, bubbling hot springs and curious caves. Among the most unusual geographical attractions are President's Pitch Lake, a 40-hectare natural pool of hot black tar and the limestone hills and hollows of Jamaica's Cockpit Country.

A rich past of cultural influences has also shaped the Caribbean into a mixed melting pot. Cries, towns and villages wear their history of former Colonial powers proudly. Hawaii, Cuba shows off its Spanish roots with its expansive colonnades, plazas and famous pulsating Latin music. Although nestled between the United States and South America, it is the influence of Europe that can seem most readily all over the Caribbean. In the French island of Martinique, you can easily make the mistake of thinking you are in the heartland of France.

The Netherlands too has left its mark in Curaçao or Aruba where pastel painted gingerbread houses line canals creating a tropical Amsterdam. Colonial rule by



Caribbean Queen. You'll find the reply on the beautiful beaches of St. Croix, in U.S. Virgin Islands.

Britain of former and current possessions like Anguilla and the Cayman Islands have stamped the islands with unmistakable touches of Britain such as red road houses and telephone "boxes", English-sounding place names, 4 o'clock tea time and cricket matches.

The region is a blend of African, European, American and Asian cultures which has given it a rich culture all its own. Proclaiming Christopher Columbus's discovery of the Caribbean in 1492, the Arawaks and Caribs are the area's original natives. Their descendants still can be found in Dominica and St. Vincent.

After you've fueled your body up on delicious Caribbean cuisine, put all that energy to use and indulge in the terrific selection of activities suited to all tastes.

Among the most popular is scuba diving and snorkeling. The Caribbean boasts over 75 species of coral and a host of active sea creatures like crabs, lobsters, starfish, eels, rays, and turtles.

Yachting is an accessible watersport that can be easily ranged for groups of 4 or more. On a smaller scale, there are sail boats for rent at many hotels which are terrific for sightseeing close to shore or from island to island.

If you prefer holiday activities on good ol' terra firma, then check out the vast array of first class casinos sprinkled over the Caribbean. Favorite gambling spots for craps, roulette, blackjack and slot machines include: Antigua, Aruba, Bonaire, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, St. Maarten, Martinique, Puerto Rico, and St. Kitts.

CUBA

It's no accident that Cuba is one of the top travel destinations for northbound Canadians. It offers an extraordinary coupling of new and old worlds. Founded in 1514, Havana is a modern city that forms the heart of the country. With nearly three million inhabitants spread over six distinct districts, Havana (or La Habana) is a diverse metropolis worth exploring. The Old Havana section of the city has a unique mixture and charm with its quaint cobblestone squares, Castillo de la Fuerte, Cuba's oldest fortress (1594), sprawling colonial palaces made from coral stone, and hot spots like Bodeguita del Medio, never

Ernest Hemingway's favorite restaurant. (When he put the first oblong beaches on his most famous novel set in Cuba, *The Old Man and the Sea* and *Islands in the Stream*.) Catch up with native Habaneros on the 19th century Prater, an expansive boulevard where people watching and strolling is true to the rhythmic Latin beats on the key guitars. Whenever you go, you'll find a wealth of galleries, museums and galleries. Of special note is the Casa de las Americas gallery which shows recent modern Latin American arts and crafts.

The smaller city of Santiago de Cuba (pop. 354,000) shouldn't be missed. Nestled close to the picturesque Sierra Maestra moun-



Havana Good Times

Cuba boasts some beautiful beaches including the Hotel Nacional Havana (left) and of course, the world-famous Varadero Beach (below) - offering spectacular views of vibrant blue waters lapping against a seemingly endless coastline. Palm trees line the shores of Trinidad. Cuba, you say?



tain, the city is home to 15 notable museums including the Bacardi museum and the country's oldest cathedral (1519). In the center of town, there's the formidable mansion built in 1520 where conquistadors Hernán Cortés and Diego de Velázquez once lived.

Away from busy urban life, the city is home to 15 notable museums including the Bacardi museum and the country's oldest cathedral (1519). In the center of town, there's the formidable mansion built in 1520 where conquistadors Hernán Cortés and Diego de Velázquez once lived.

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Tridale Square, which is smaller than London's square, and has a statue of Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson presiding over two distinctive colonial buildings built from coral stone in the 1870s. North from Tridale Square, a stroll along Swan Street will give you a glimpse of a typical Caribbean street market. Shoppers will also want to check out the Rustic Mall for Panamanian herbal concoctions and African handicrafts and the arts and crafts of Prison Village.

Barbados's oldest, built in 1629, is St. Michael's Cathedral (1789), the Barbados

Viceroy, set inside a former prison, which highlights the island's colorful history, and the stained glass windows of The House of Assembly, home to the Barbados Parliament.

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on the portion of the coast, tours are available at the West India Rum Refinery and the Paradise Sugar Factory. Closer to Bridgetown, the first settlement on Barbados in 1627, where the Folkstone Underwater Park offers a snorkeling trail through the silvery sands.

Don't miss the hidden scenic treasure of the Barbados Island Grand sugar plantation museum at the France a Plantation and Villa Nova, and Mount Palisades (height 180 meters) towering over the rolling hills at the Scotland district are hand carved from coral island spots.



Adventure Guide: Set one of the most British of all the islands, Barbados offers the best of beaches, fine dining and evening nightlife. (photo)

Photograph: Exploring the underwater life with scuba diving friends in the Caribbean. (photo)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Cayman Islands provide a true moment between the Caribbean trade and beauty and style, peace and quiet. These islands, all with their own distinct way of life, make up the Cayman Islands. The busy roads for cars, the normal in Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands and one of the capital. George Town, three miles from the capital, is a beautiful town with a mix of bar and restaurants that open late night along a beach with sand as white as sugar. This is the spot where you can dance the night away under the stars and hear an international band of expatriate music. By day, stroll back through time in the Cayman Museum and the Cayman Islands which celebrates the island's past and present.

Northeast of Grand Cayman are the remote islands of Cayman Brac (pop. 1,000) and Little Cayman. Home to just 50 inhabitants. Diving, fishing, and water sports are chosen to these quiet islands for their superior offerings in all these areas.

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4 that it was not obscene. There have been drastic changes since then, as a series of subsequent court cases have contributed to ever more liberal definitions of obscenity. The classic of that trend is the Butler case. It marked the first time that the Supreme Court of Canada considered the effect of the 1982 Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and its provision for freedom of expression, on the obscenity law. The origin of the case lies in an August, 1987, raid by Winnipeg police on Avenue Video Boutique, a store that stocked usually explicit videos and magazines, mostly for heterosexuals. The police seized the store's entire inventory and charged owner Donald Butler with 288 obscenity counts. Butler was acquitted on all but eight counts—and appealed those convictions up to the Supreme Court, arguing that the charter prohibited government from censoring pornography.

The court, however, upheld the obscenity law—and the state's right to censor certain types of pornography. But so its extremely narrow view, it replaced nudity as the rationale for censorship with the principle of women's equality. Mocking definitions of obscenity were incompatible with the charter, the court said. But if an obscene work lowered the equality of women, a court case was justified. "Materials portraying women in a state worthy of sexual exploitation and abuse have a negative impact on the individual's sense of self and acceptance," wrote Justice John Sopinka in the judgment.

With that in mind, the court created three new rankings for obscenity. At the top, any material that shows explicit sex and violence—or includes children, should be ruled obscene. In the middle category, video that involves explicit sex and degradation are obscene, too, if they are deemed to encourage violence or other harm against women. Finally, other sexually explicit material is permissible because the obscenity law cannot "inhibit the celebration of human sexuality." The court's decision was largely influenced by the intervention in the Butler case of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), a national organization that believes in the rights on behalf of feminist causes. In official brief, LEAF asked the Supreme Court to uphold the obscenity law, claiming that some forms of pornography promoted violence against women. The group acknowledged that social science did not support that claim, but that neither could it dispute it. The harmful effects of pornography on women were self-evident, the group argued. "Pornography is a multifaceted, systemic practice of exploitation and subordination based on sex that differentially and materially

harms women," wrote University of Manitoba law professor Karen Binley, who worked on the LEAF brief as a recent journal article about the group's role in the Butler case.

While many lawyers viewed the Butler decision as a triumph, the application of the ruling during the past two years has disappointed them. Binley, for one, thought that the new standards given to all sexually explicit material would "bark state review



Supreme Court putting a feminist spin on obscenity guidelines

'PORNOGRAPHY IS A MULTIFACETED, SYSTEMIC PRACTICE OF EXPLOITATION AND SUBORDINATION'

of books, videos, images and art historically deemed morally 'indecent' or 'degrading' by a heterosexual society." But Canada Customs has continued to seize and seize shipments of erotica and lesbian pornography for some gay and lesbian stores.

At the same time, Butler seems to have given greater aim to the very pornography that some feminists thought the ruling would neutralize—degrading material that they argued as harmful to women. "The reason we see obscenity in Butler is because it causes harm, but to be a certain way the prosecution has to prove it causes harm," says Alan D. Gold, a Toronto criminal lawyer who has defended several "obscene" films. "The problem is that there is not a shred of respectable research that supports that claim. So while the feminists were busy congratulating themselves on selling this nonsense to the Supreme Court

of Canada, the aftermath of Butler has been nothing but success for the defence in obscenity cases." Added Gold: "They please to see our case anything."

The Butler ruling has brought marked changes to Canadian society. In many cities it is now common to find hard-core pornographic magazines and videos in corner stores. As well, many hotels and motels also feel free to offer guests sexually explicit films in their rooms or pay-per-view channels. Film review boards, which both classify and censor films in several provinces, have also, in most cases, taken a liberal cue from the Butler ruling.

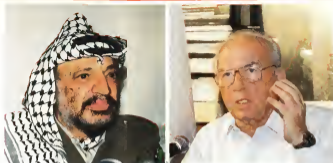
Before the Butler decision, Det. Frank Goldschmidt of Toronto's police force said pornography used to be a charge against merchants if they simply stocked a video showing basic intercourse. Now, he says that the only material they feel confident about seizing and warranting conviction on is pornography that depicts sexual violence and material mixing sex with violence—most commonly, bondage.

But even that class of material is available to any casual shopper on Yonge Street's commercial strip in downtown Toronto. At the city's video shop "Thotix," a spokeswoman says despite its name, which is not between 180 and 360. Among the selections is a tape called "Rotten Eggs" by Miss. The cover advertises it as "one of the most exciting bondage videos" ever made, and depicts two male women strapped back to her groin by a series of chains. One of them has what looks like a horse's bit in her mouth, held there by a tight strap around her head. Another video cover shows a female-child strapped to a chair. "We're not pulling open the zipper of a young blond woman who is gagged with honey, looked

upon. The pair is in a room that looks like a dungeon, with whips and chains hanging from the ceiling. The cover under the video is "Miss St. Michael's as he teaches, tortures, humiliates and disciplines some of the most beautiful and submissive women who have fallen under his powerful will."

Lawyer Butler says that those videos are the kind of thing that should be prohibited under the law. "The only reason they can only degrade women because they are only degrade women," he says. "The police say that they are in fact continuing to lay charges against such material, but simply do not have enough personnel to crack down on all forms of relentlessly proliferating porn." "I know if you go to these you will find things that may be over the line," says Det. Goldschmidt. "That's probably why we could go and get charges on. But so can we—we haven't got the time." They also have no guarantee that, in a permissive age, the charges would stick. □

STATE OF SHOCK



The death of an Israel soldier kidnapped by Islamic militants threatens to rattle the fragile peace process

in an act of exceptional consideration, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded its 1994 Peace Prize to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, his foreign minister and old political rival, Shimon Peres, and the former secretary of both men, Yasser Arafat. The Nobel Committee chairman Yvo Aboagye said the decision was made "When the awards were presented at noon local time last Friday, Rabin, Peres and Arafat were in the midst of a tense hostage crisis that threatened to scuttle the hard-won gains of the past 13 months. The day finally ended in a bloody raid as Muslim extremists and the death of a kidnapped Israeli soldier whose anguished mother's appeals to her son's abductors had persuaded the country. He died three kilometers from his home in northern Jerusalem."

At the center of the crisis was 19-year-old Gidi Nachshon Waxman, abducted by members of the radical Hamas movement. The kidnappers threatened to execute Waxman unless Israel released more than 200 Palestinian prisoners, including Hamas leader Shrik Ahmed Yassin, by 9 p.m. on Oct. 14. Earlier Waxman, an Orthodox Jew who emigrated from New York City 25 years ago, made repeated and eloquent appeals for his son's release. On Friday, the tension broke temporarily by the Nobel announcement. Rabin reiterated that Israel would not negotiate with terrorists—and held Arafat personally responsible for



the safe return of the young soldier who was believed to be held captive in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip on the Mediterranean. Under intense pressure from Israel and the United States, the PLO leader ordered Palestinian police to round up hundreds of suspected Hamas activists

Arafat, Rabin, kidnappers of Waxman work around abduction of Gidi Nachshon Waxman

and conduct house-to-house searches for the missing Israeli. Arafat gave the deadline, Hamas announced that it was extending the ultimatum for another 24 hours. But Israel had already run out for Yasser Arafat. Arafat 30 minutes earlier, Israeli security forces raided a Hamas safe house in the West Bank village of Be'atza. After the ensuing gunfight, Israeli officials announced that the captured had been "wounded in cold blood," while three of his abductors were also

one of his would-be rescuers were also killed in the raid. Rabin took full responsibility for the failed venture, during which the kidnappers who would not allow Israeli soldiers. Despite his public claim that Israel would not negotiate with the terrorists, Rabin in fact had sent

as a side to talk with Mahmud Zahar, a top Hamas political leader, who is now imprisoned in the 24-hour custody of the ultimatum. The secret talks followed the release of a chilling videotape in which a dead-looking Waxman, seated in front of a crashed Hamas gun, implored Rabin to save his life by according to his captives' demands.

Breaking the Jewish religious prohibition against work, the Israeli prime minister led a late-night news conference in Tel Aviv and said that he ordered the raid because he did not receive an answer about whether Hamas was willing to trade Waxman for Shrik Yassin. "It is our obligation not to surrender to terrorism but to act against it," said Rabin. "Knowing that we had military options, and that they might have killed Waxman at 9 o'clock, I could not have stood up and said we didn't give it a try." Added Rabin, solemnly: "I would be happy to give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back to life both of the soldiers who fell."

Rabin said that he hoped the deaths would not derail talks with the PLO about extending a truce in the West Bank, which he had earlier suspended because of the kidnapping. "We will be at work," he said. "We will find what we have to do to make it possible to continue the peace process, because it is clear that the Gaza Strip is the center of Hamas terror activities."

Arafat aide Marwan Khatib echoed that sentiment and appealed for an early resump-

tion of self-referential talks. Referring to the kidnapping, he added: "Such accidents are the result, not the cause, of the delay in implementation of the peace process." Khatib also said that the PLO had been vindicated because Waxman had been held in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, not in Palestinian-controlled Gaza as Rabin had insisted.

Still, Arafat did not escape blame. Critics of all political views have been accusing the Palestinian police have failed to divert or neutralize Hamas gunmen in Gaza and Jenin. Some right-wing politicians have accused Arafat of playing a double game, agreeing to negotiations between the PLO and Israel while allowing militant Islamic groups like Hamas to continue the armed struggle. Over the past five months, Islamic fundamentalists have killed five Israeli soldiers and three civilians, and wounded 50 others, as operations launched inside or from Gaza. The Waxman kidnapping on Oct. 9, as well as the Arafat-Khatib threat to Israel to set his griffin, coincided with an armed attack on a popular Jerusalem restaurant and shopping district that killed two civilians and wounded 13 Palestinian police have made no arrests in any of those attacks. "Today, the Palestinians face the moment of truth," warned Rabin on Friday. "If they do not detect the elements of peace, the chances of peace will disappear."

For Arafat, it was a clear message that he should get his house in order—even if it

means civil war in the neighborhoods' struggle for Gaza. Late Friday night, hundreds of Hamas supporters danced and chanted *Allahu Akbar* (God is Great) in Gaza City and they would continue to use all means in the struggle against Israel. The next morning, Hamas issued a statement threatening Israel with more kidnappings unless all Palestinian prisoners were released. It also condemned Arafat as Israeli's enemy for arresting their supporters in the search for Waxman.

Despite Arafat's cooperation with Israel last week, opposition right-wing Likud members urged Rabin to reject the Nobel Peace Prize rather than share it with the PLO leader. They were not alone in their anger. Some Christians resented from the five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee to protest Arafat's inclusion. Declared Kristiansen, a conservative former government minister who is staunchly pro-Israel: "His past is too tainted with violence, terrorism and bloodshed, and his future too unpredictable."

In Los Angeles, Rabbi Marvin Hier, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization, also condemned the decision to honor Arafat, saying the Nobel committee "had embarked on a perilous course." Said Hier: "The Nobel Peace Prize should be a crowning achievement for a life's work in pursuit of peace. For the past 30 years, Arafat was the world's foremost terrorist and slayer. What kind of model citizen is that to hold up for the world?"

But Arafat had some notable supporters, too. Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was awarded the Nobel prize in 1984 for his struggle against apartheid in his native South Africa, welcomed the PLO leader as a fellow laureate. Said Tutu during a Toronto stop on a book promotion tour: "In 20 years' time, we'd all have to be Mother Teresa. But we are not. Surely there are some individuals that people have brought peace where there was no peace. In many instances, the people who accomplish it have been controversial. Such was the case last year, when Tutu's co-winner, P. W. (Diederik) de Klerk and the African National Congress leader who since then has also served, Nelson Mandela, shared the prize."

On a visit to Canada in March, 1993—as months before the historic Israeli-Palestinian peace accord—Shimon Peres won the Nobel prize for the difficult road ahead. "The closer one gets to peace, the more frustrating the journey," he said for his own victory. "The peace for which we are striving is not a peace of violence against the West Bank. The subversion and murder of Yasser Arafat Waxman last week clearly frustrated the fragile peace process. The widespread hope among Israelis and Palestinians alike was that it could still be salvaged."

ANTHONY DILLON and KIM SUTHER
in Jerusalem

New Age politics?

A \$95-million man runs for the Senate

Of all the candidates for national state and local offices in the U.S. elections on Nov. 6, few have provoked as much attention as the big-money efforts of radical congressman Michael Huffington in California. He and his glamorous wife, Aracely Sotomayor-Huffington, have gone a long way towards securing the biggest state's voters to protest late to the U.S. Senate as a step towards the White House. Laying out cash like he's in it for the long haul (he is), the 47-year-old Republican's crusade has centered largely on TV commercials decrying poverty, crime and corruption. During the spring run for his party's nomination last year, he surprised left-liberal commentators by his Green-belt side, a writer widely portrayed as the power during the legislature's chaotic and her involvement with a New Age sect called the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness has generated new public awareness, if not always favorable, of both Huffingtons. But last week as fall-bare-elections followed the recess at Congress, Michael Huffington hit the headlines in person with his "new vision of how politics could, and should, work in America."

In fact, as outlined as a mostly non-business audience at a luncheon in a luxury Newport Beach hotel ballroom, much of that "new vision" of politics was borrowed. And for any of the secular respondents who may ever have his message, it all blew. "The old system has not worked," he said. "You waste for distorted people—You're telling you, without any question, the prime word program 'You by the people as volunteers, with charitable giving.' And to encourage such private welfare, Huffington urged, Washington should require limits on income-tax deductions for charity. With that and similar ideas, he declared his intent to run for Senate as an opportunity to send a shock wave not only across California, but across America."

By most polls and soundings, the conservative shock wave is already surging among a conservative electorate across the country, into this fall weeks before the election. In California, it has helped Huffington win a 50-point polling lead over three-term Sen. Democrat and incumbent Senator Dianne Feinstein, 61, who is herself venting to the right in a survival struggle. Some things are the likely exception: Issues apart from other American conservatives. A record of support for gays in the military and a pro-choice tilt on abortion stand alongside his invocation of



ASSIGNMENT
CARL MOLLINS
IN CALIFORNIA

Huffington with wife, Aracely, the power driving the candidate says her ties to a sect are core



family values—"a return to old values and values that we grew up with: honesty, hard work, compassion, courage and self-discipline." He is prepared to not let his self-government stand. His message to the voters is not so much what Huffington can do as the Senate, but rather—as he demonstrated in the House of Representatives—(that he will do nothing or less at all).

Huffington is broad by his \$85-million personal fortune (from the late creative director of raising money). He boasts that his wealth also liberates him from special inter-

ests that buy legislative favors with cash. Huffington's \$85-million fortune is notable for little else than how he got it. In Congress in 1982, he was the opponent of senior party officials, including then-President George Bush. Huffington (worth \$85 million) has his own cash to invest, the norm in the Santa Barbara district from a Republican incumbent and three defeat his Democrat opponent.

For his campaign, Senator Huffington's spending is reaching towards \$27 million or more—a record for an individual campaign. (By comparison, Canada's five major parties combined \$31.1 million nationally in the 1993 federal elections campaign.) The Huffington story is almost as big as his wife, Aracely, 44. She studied at Columbia University, belonged to several social sets in London and New York City, and has published best-selling biographies of Picasso and Maria Callas. She married Huffington in a lavish 1988 New York wedding. They have two pre-adolescent daughters, both present at last week's political event and scored the family in 1991 from Houston into a \$5.6-million house near Santa Barbara. Most controversial in her role as a "housewife" in a magazine was awarded by a man who has called himself John Singer after meeting among a vision during Huntington's story supply. Former secretary of his Monogram of Inner Spiritual Awareness (MSIA), pronounced messiah, claim that John Singer had himself above Jesus in the divine hierarchy.

Aracely, whose latest book is a memoir titled *The Fourth Justice: The Call of the Soul*, is a spiritualist who believes the inner aspects of universal power and soul, new ways that her ties to the sect are in the past. But her close involvement with her husband's Senate race has inspired more controversy, including charges from former California senators, that she often overrides the professionals and reality runs the show.

Last week, Michael Huffington headed off criticism of his wife with a new role in a prepared speech that he read in San Francisco. "I want to dispel any notion that she's the driving force behind this campaign—a point I will make many times in this speech that she won't do me." Whoever is naming the campaign by Aracely Huffington's Power Inside thesis it is the personal locus at work among the not-are that will determine its outcome. And if the signs in California prevail across the country, Huffington's wife will be seen as a change in its political landscape—and perhaps also in its social structure. □

STRIKE IN ALGERIA

In one of the most violent days of a nearly three-year-old insurgency, five car bombs exploded in Algiers and a Korean merchant was shot to death in his car. The 32nd foreigner killed since the Algerian rebels began targeting them 13 months ago. More than 15,000 people have died in violence between government forces and banned Muslim extremists since the Islamic Salvation Front was blocked from an election victory in January, 1992.

STRIKE IN ALGERIA

An UN report called for a worldwide ban on the production, use and transfer of land mines, an estimated 110 million of which are scattered through 64 countries. The report said that it would cost \$40 billion to clear the mines, which are proliferating at a rate of between two million and five million a year.

ITALIANS UP IN ARMS

A four-hour general strike, ostensibly to protest the government's deficit-cutting budget and planned reductions in pension spending, quickly turned into a nationwide demonstration against billionaire Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Across Italy, more than three million people took to the streets calling for the resignation of Berlusconi, a middle-class man who entered politics five years ago, promising an economic boom and an end to decades of chronic strike overspending.

A SCIENTIFIC LINK

Researchers at the University of Iowa say that schizophrenia may arise from a single abnormality in the thalamus, a structure deep within the brain that acts like a central switchboard in a study of 82 brains, half of them from schizophrenics and the other half from normal people, the researchers found that the thalamus was smaller in the schizophrenic brains. The scientists theorize that schizophrenia's wide variety of symptoms, from delusions to social withdrawal, might be traced to the thalamus.

BASEBALL MEDIATOR NAMED

The Clinton administration named former labor secretary Bill Murray to be special mediator in the multi-year baseball contract dispute that halted the 1994 season and threatens that year's all-star game. Murray, 71, helped negotiate an end to the 1974 National Football League strike. Last year, he mediated an end to a coal miners' strike and played a key role in bringing together the United Auto Workers, General Motors and Toyota in establishing a joint venture.

World NOTES



Aristide, behind bulletproof glass, addresses supporters in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

A Haitian homecoming

It took three years and fifteen dogs, but Jean-Bertrand Aristide made a triumphant return to Haiti last Saturday to resume the presidency that was usurped by a military coup. Two days earlier, the man who had sent tens of thousands of Haitians to the dead of night in a place named for Pharoah. The old regime demanded, thousands of people had been killed by the presence of more than 20,000 U.S. troops—throughout the nation. Police welcomed the country's first democratically elected president. "Never again will blood be shed in this country," Aristide declared. "We are all worthy for power."

Among the 35 dignitaries who accompanied Aristide on his flight from Washington to Port-au-Prince was Canadian Foreign Minister Aulie Ortel, who announced a \$300-million aid package for Haiti. A group of 17 other nations and Canadian observers was already on board in the Haitian capital to prepare for a UN peacekeeping force, including 600 Canadian soldiers, which will replace the U.S. occupation troops. Another 100 Marines will also be sent to help reinforce Haitian police.

Backing down

Under threat of U.S. military force, Baghdad withdrew its 50,000 troops from southern Iraq near Kuwait. The pullback, coupled with an Iraqi offer to recognize Kuwait's borders and sovereignty, seemed to end a week-long crisis that threatened a replay of the 1990 Persian Gulf War. But President Bill Clinton said that U.S. forces "will remain in the area and on alert until we are absolutely satisfied that Iraq no longer poses threats to Kuwait."

MARTIN'S DEBT PLAN

Ottawa shifts the focus from the GST to the debt

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

If there is one aspect of Paul Martin's character about which both his friends and political opponents agree, it is his love of a fight. Canada's finance minister relishes the cut-throat thrust of a good—and usually good-natured—debate, whether in private with aides or friends or in public during the day, pointing to the House of Commons. "Paul" says one friend from long and occasionally fractious experience, "is happiest arguing." That might explain why last week, after a day of apparently fruitless talks in Toronto with provincial finance ministers, Martin said appeared relentlessly optimistic. Yes, he conceded in an interview with *Maclean's*, he was on closer to an agreement with the provinces to achieve his goal to replace the general Goods and Services tax. In fact, he acknowledged, his earlier expressed intention to do so by Jan. 1, 1996 "may not be realistic." But, he added, "We have not all the prepared scraps and ideas on the table of negotiations. I am encouraged."

Perhaps as those troubled, deficit-driven times for governments, a strong dose of optimism is essential for a finance minister as often in contrast and ease problems. Last week, it was the GST. This week, Martin makes two speeches that mark the start of a new round of negotiations before talking a February federal budget that will be, by definition, nasty, brutal and wide-ranging in its determination to cut \$7 billion over the next year from the present \$39 billion annual deficit.

Certainly, there was plenty of potential cause for dismay in the quick and intensive manner with which some of his counterparts

discussed the plan Martin tabled for tax reform. Under his proposal, the GST and provincial sales taxes would have been replaced by a single national sales tax of 12 per cent—a figure that, in most cases, would be lower than the present combined rate. At the same time, income taxes would have increased for families with incomes over \$90,000, and dropped slightly for those earning under that figure.

The results of a coordinated national sales tax and the end of duplication between some provincial and federal services. Federal tax officials collected, would be 40 per cent of extra economic growth by the third quarter of the first year after the reforms, and a long-term drop in the inflation rate of one per cent. "There," said Martin, "are obvious gains for everyone." That view was shared by the Toronto-based C. D. Howe Institute, which published a report earlier in the week recommending an almost identical approach. Such steps, concluded economists Paul Booth and Tracy Stoeckel, would "make our economy more efficient and our tax system simpler and less costly."

But the provincial ministers did not share that enthusiasm, for reasons as disparate as their own proposals for tax reform. Treasury Minister Ross of Alberta, the only province with no sales tax, disliked the fact that the plan would mean higher prices for Albertans. Saskatchewan minister of finance Jaeger McKeown said her province would lose \$212 million annually under the plan, forcing it to consider new spending cuts and tax increases. And Quebec's newly elected Parti Québécois finance minister Jean Charest—who otherwise warmly welcomed his counterparts with his co-operative manner—said he would not

accept any plan that infringes on Quebec's existing taxation rights and powers.

That was also one reason why he and other ministers reacted negatively to proposals by Ontario and Manitoba, each aimed at standardizing the crazy quilt of different tax rates and options now in effect across Canada. The Ontario plan would have given Ottawa control over all sales taxes in return for the province's acquiring power to design their own income tax systems. The Manitoba plan would have given Ottawa transfer power over sales taxes, while the province would have collected equivalent tax revenue through a new national health levy.

But those plans—and the Ontario scheme in particular—were strongly opposed by ministers from the four Atlantic provinces. They feared that any increase in personal income taxes would be disastrous in their region, with its high unemployment rate and shrunken income base. Already, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have the country's highest provincial personal income tax rates, measured as a percentage against the basic federal tax rate. Newfoundland's 1993 rate, for example, was 69 per cent. And if the Ontario plan was implemented, Newfoundland officials estimated their tax rate would have to rise to between 110 and 135 per cent of the federal rate.

At the same time, some provincial officials,



"Everything is in place for an extended economic boom in this country. With one notable exception."

some friends, including steady increases in productivity and job creation, and gradual inflationary pressure, point to even stronger growth this year. "Everything is in place for an extended economic boom in this country," said Martin. "With one notable exception."

That, of course, is the federal deficit, to which Martin began devoting his full attention this week. His two speeches, which will be made only in the week to the House of Commons finance committee, will be devoted to spelling out the goals and constraints facing the federal government in the upcoming budget. The most important of those is his conviction that the government must not budget from its goal of reducing the annual deficit to \$20.7 billion in the 1995-1996 fiscal year and \$22 billion in the year after that. That could allow the Liberals to reach their goal of reducing the deficit to three per cent of gross domestic product by 1995-1996.

As he did last year, Martin says he is determined to select a wide range of possible different ideas and opinions in advance. That means that a parliamentary committee will lead hearings across the country for much of the next few months, while Martin will travel separately. It also means that Martin unexpectedly refuses to rule out such controversial possibilities as imposing a tax on regulated retirement savings plans. "We are going to tell people what our financial goals are, but we need agreement on how to achieve them," he said. "The time to deal with our deficit problems is now, while the economy is doing well."

But while that sentiment is widely shared, some economists suggest Martin's scheme to cut cash is a waste in a second report last week, the C. D. Howe Institute urged Martin to take far more drastic action on the deficit, by cutting \$144 billion—or 12 per cent of annual spending on programs—to reduce the debt to \$25 billion by 1995-1996 and \$21 billion by the year after that. The government's overall aim, the institute said, should be to wipe out the deficit completely by the end of its mandate. That study, Martin said, "is very much in some areas, but flawed in others." But there is always good news for a politician: Finance minister, even after a budget consultation, he now has something new to argue about. □

■ Martin in Toronto after meeting with provincial finance ministers: "The time to deal with our deficit problems is now, while the economy is doing well."

particularly those whose governments lose elections in the next future, probably recall that they have little to gain politically from such reforms. At least, that's what some of the GST, their anger is directed solely at the federal government: for imposing and maintaining it. Any tax reform, in long as it kept the same revenue base, would benefit some taxpayers while inflicting others hurt by the changes. Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughlin, whose New Democratic Party will face an election next year and probably several times before the conference began that he is not unhappy with Ontario's existing tax

structure. Similarly, Manitoba, the other province to present an alternative proposal, says any tax reform will fail. As well, the issue of urgency among some ministers may be muted by the strong present performance of the country's economy. Statistics Canada figures released last week showed that the country's economic output grew by 2.6 per cent overall last year—and that gain was reflected in almost every part of the country. It marked the second consecutive year of growth for Canada, and was well ahead of the 1992 figure of 0.9 per cent. Federal finance officials say that present eco-

Looking for Net profit

Entrepreneurs are now cruising the Internet

Jeremy Tucker, proprietor of Seaside Book and Stamp in Halifax, is on the technological cutting edge of commerce, not that the edge is immediately obvious. Seaside is a comfortable storefront operation on Spring Garden Road in Halifax, where customers can drop in for the latest offering from new wave science-fiction author William Gibson or a friendly chat about stamp collecting. There are rows of bookshelves, a computer in the wall, and a few plants—for Tucker's real dream was to have a nonfiction greenhouse and bookstore. Only a computer terminal on a cluttered desk hints at Seaside's technological secret, which is based on one of the byways of the information highway. Tucker is one of a growing, but still small, number of Canadian business people often mentioned as much by dreamers of future profits as present customers, who have taken their companies onto the Internet, the global web of computer networks. "I really do believe that this is the way of the future," he says.

Unfortunately for Tucker, the future is also where any profits of cybercommerce lie. His presence on the Net brings him about \$180 a week of business, against \$200 a month in direct costs. His outpost on the information highway is a spot on the so-called Cybersmall, a league of commercial servers put together by NBTX Inc. in Deerfield, N.H., one of Canada's largest providers of Internet service. So, while Tucker still calls his Net experience "a very good opportunity," he may eventually have to bid out if sales do not improve.

Indeed, one that he shares with other Net retailers, is that direct advertising is based on the Internet—a hollower than on original ads as communications tool for advertising professionals and American desktop researchers. Anyone placing a blatant appeal for business on the Internet risks being immediately blocked—that is, boycotted by countless members from sites whose clients prying out the breach of protocol. That means that Seaside's commercial postings—like those of anyone trying to attract customers—have to be subtly worded to sound like information, not commerce. What to more, retailers cannot even post anything in the system to point the seekers of Net browsers towards their entry under countless available pages of informa-

tion. And, unlike commercial computer services such as CompuServe or America Online, the Net, for the most part, does not offer users with opening means to guide them to their destinations of choice—NBTX's Cybersmall, perhaps—which makes it hard to use without a sponsor will never stumble across it.

But there is one way open to reach up business. Tucker craves the Net's new group—places where people can leave messages



Tucker at Seaside Book and Stamp in Halifax searching for a new path to profit in cyberspace.

about particular topics—set up for science-fiction fans, for instance, on three bulletin boards, all ending with a note explaining what his store is about and where in cyberspace it is located. That once these modest commercial postings have to be loaded with discretion because Net veterans have the idea that cyberpace is becoming commercialized. The loss of many who use the Internet is that business/commercial messages will run the Internet for the rest of us by changing and making the server profitable for the few and exposing for the many," says David Martinson, one of the organizers of the constantly-based Victoria FreeNet.

The parties fighting to preserve the counter culture aspect of the Net, however, are slowly being, however in a fringe of business mar-

ket, with companies now making up more than half of new Internet connections. But if the Net is a market waiting to be exploited, it is also a market in an early infancy making it an attractive but dangerous place. Kathy Munn and partner John Bayes of Vancouver have collected the e-mails and decided to take them with a start up they call the Electric Mail Co. It is based on an idea that allows small and medium-sized companies without a computer services department the possibility of Internet e-mail with few of the technical hassles. So far, Munn and Bayes have a good idea, one that is, and no penny customers. "There's a real risk in coming it too early," says Munn.

It is not just start-ups and small companies that are breaking bones on ground on the Net. Canadian Airlines has set up a pilot project that allows people to look at a picture of Van-

SAY UNCLE

Wallace McCain was removed as president and co-chief executive officer of McCain Foods Group Inc. after a shareholder battle with his brother and partner, Hanson. The ouster followed a vote by the company's board of directors. Andrew McCain, chairman of the family-dominated board, then offered his uncle the non-executive post of vice-chairman.

HEAD OF THE CLASS

A New Jersey couple launched a class action suit in the United States against Confederation Life Insurance Co. of Toronto, which collapsed in August. Dr. Allen Quashnow and his wife, Shirley, allege that the company misrepresented the state of its financial health to them and other U.S. purchasers of its whole life insurance policies. Their suit was launched two months before Confed failed.

MOGUL MANIA

Three of the biggest names in Hollywood—filmmaker Steven Spielberg, former Disney studio chief Jeffrey Katzenberg and music exec David Geffen—have joined forces to create a new studio to produce movies, records, animated films and television productions. The independent company, financed by the three partners but named as yet, is expected to begin operation in early 1995.

STOP THE PRESS

Rogers Communications Inc. of Toronto has hired financial advisors to search for potential buyers for the commercial printing assets of Medison Hunter Ltd. Rogers acquired Medison Hunter in March for \$5.1 billion. The division employs about 2,300 people and generated over \$340 million in revenue last year.

FACEOFF

Minority shareholders of Maple Leaf Foods Ltd. are suing the multinational giant. Steve Shinn says he has attempted to take over the firm, Harry David and Joe Develando claim that the takeover "arbitrarily disregarded the interests of shareholders."

WOOD WIN

The U.S. commerce department will pay about \$500 million that is owed to Canadian softwood lumber exporters by the end of the year. Canadian exporters are being reimbursed following rulings by a bilateral trade panel that struck down 8.5-per-cent duties against Canadian softwood lumber. U.S. officials agreed to refund such deposits collected from them.

Business NOTES



ROARING RUBLE: Nervous Russians line up in front of a Moscow currency exchange as the ruble dropped by as much as 25 per cent over two days. The Russian central bank spent about \$180 million to prop up the ruble on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. In an effort to curb the crisis and support the blame for it, Russian President Boris Yeltsin fired acting finance minister Boris Fyodorov. Central bank chairman Viktor Geraschenko also resigned over the latest after being criticized for his failure to intervene and defend the currency. A government spokesman also suggested that the currency crisis was the result of a conspiracy against the current political regime by commercial banks.

Booming Business

Canada's rate of inflation was a modest 0.2 per cent—much lower than the previous two months—in September. Higher costs for new cars, public transportation and gasoline were the main contributors to inflation. However, postsecondary tuition fees also boosted the overall rate, swelling 0.4 per cent from the level of September, 1993. According to Warren Jevins, chief economist at the Bank of Nova Scotia, those increases could be enough to push inflation up to 1.5 per cent next year.

The jump in tuition fees is in line with increases over the past several years. According to Statistics Canada, fees rose 9.2 per cent in September, 1993, and 8.5 per cent and 10.4 per cent in the previous two years respectively as governments have cut their budgets. Business Canada also reported that rent costs

bridged much inflation higher in September, while cigarettes, mortgage financing and food produce were cheaper. A cut in tobacco taxes in February has been the main drag on inflation. With cigarettes removed from the September calculation, the September inflation rate rises to 1.0 per cent.

Another economic report released last week indicates that Canada's industrial production has now surpassed pre-recession peaks of 1989-1990. According to the International Monetary Fund, Canada's low growth was in 1992 when domestic industry produced only 0.6 per cent of its 1990 level. By the first quarter of this year, domestic industry output had risen 10.3 per cent of 1990 production. The United States and Germany have also improved their production while Japan continues to lag.

WARREN JEVINS is Ottawa



The real story of an insurance giant's fall

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

In this space on the week after Confederation Life crumbled in the most dramatic bankruptcy in Canadian life insurance history, I advocated critical proceedings against the nine private firm's directors who allowed the catastrophe, profoundly affecting its 200,000 policyholders. As the case, I believed that the main reason for the disaster was Confed's aggressive policy of pursuing its investment portfolio with dubious commercial real estate "where values melted like Swiss cheese as a guarantee."

I felt that gambling in this scale with job cypharins (premiums could only be prevented in the future if Confed's directors were charged with fraud and, if convicted, put in jail). I was wrong. Consideration is irresponsible real estate deals, some of which benefited on corporate history—the company took on many gambles it quickly became known as "a leader of last resort"—were only mild risks compared with some of its other activities. This is particularly glaring since Confederation was a mutual, not a stock, company, whose board was directly charged with safeguarding policyholders' interests.

Now, it turns out that these directors were responsible for the company at a time when it became a major player in financial derivatives, which are contracts that derive their value from the unpredictable swings in foreign currencies, interest rates, commodity prices and market indexes. That's rather than buying corporate shares on the Vancouver Stock Exchange. After a leading American mutual fund (Piper Jaffray) recently announced that it had in fact lost \$99 million on derivatives (North Dakota Senator Byron Dorgan compared this form of investment to handling cryptocurrency, and introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress to ban their use by banks. Putting your faith in derivatives, the most hyped-up and uncontrollable way to spread risk, is what Duffi Duck to be your mutual fund manager.

Putting your faith in derivatives, as Confederation Life did, is like hiring Daffy Duck to be your mutual fund manager

Despite these risks, Confederation Life, Canada's fifth largest insurer, whose roots stretch back to 1871, became active in derivatives in 1991 through a subsidiary called Confederation Treasury Services Ltd. By the end of 1992, when the company's financial audit was reaching its point of no return, an astounding \$20.3 billion in "notional principal amounts of outstanding contracts" which is the way the value of derivative is measured, was on its books. This included \$4.8 billion in currency swaps, \$4.6 billion in interest rate swaps and \$1.1 billion in foreign exchange contracts—which are the riskiest extensions among derivatives. By the end of 1993, Confed's investment in derivatives had doubled, reaching a hard-to-believe \$28.6 billion, including \$4.3 billion in currency swaps, \$9.2 billion in interest rate futures and \$5.1 billion in foreign exchange contracts.

It would be tempting for Confederation Life directors who ran the company at the time to deny any knowledge of these deals, though the amounts are so large that such a defence hardly seems credible. (And the derivative deals are contained in an obscure footnote in the company's 1993 annual report, signed by the directors.) In fact, the chairman of the

board of Confed's directors not only was aware of these Monte Carlo-style investments but actively defended them, despite at least one warning from a senior insider.

When Frank di Paolo, of Confederation's large American operation, came to the Toronto head office in November, 1991, it was a very special visit for him. A distinguished insurance executive, he had spent 35 years with Confed, rising to be the American subsidiary's chief actuary and eventually its vice-president, finance. He had been invited to head office to celebrate his retirement and at a corporate dinner found himself seated next to the Thorns, then Confed's chairman of the board. "During the meal," di Paolo told me last week, "I briefly discussed with them the proposed entry into the derivative market and told him that this business could be very risky because even though it might theoretically be possible for the company to hedge its risk, in a practical sense it could not be done. I also mentioned that the new Canadian Insurance Companies Act, about to be enacted, did not permit life insurance companies to assume risks other than those 'related to the happening of an event or a contingency dependent upon human life.' Thorns told me that no decision had yet been reached, but if the company did go into derivatives it would be through a subsidiary, Confederation Treasury Services Ltd."

Di Paolo, who is shocked by his former company's demise and is trying to help out its American unit, points out that the lost note in the company's 1993 annual report refers to derivative investments assumed high financial risks with policyholders' premiums, and he is justified why Ottawa's regulators took no action.

He recalls that late in 1991, Michael Macdonald, then federal superintendent of financial institutions, the federal regulatory body responsible for banks, trust companies as well as insurers, requested a meeting with Confed's directors. "During that meeting," di Paolo recalls, "Macdonald told them that his auditors had uncovered a number of irregularities and that some of the firm's collateral holdings were weak and overvalued." Two top executives of Confederation Trust (the subsidiary through which the company handled its real estate deals) were fired shortly after the audit meeting—though a few weeks later the same pair were paid bonuses of several hundred thousand dollars each for their 1991 performance in shifting out loans. They had originally been hired with the promise of bonuses without a cap, based solely on Confed Trust's annual growth.

At the time, the vice-president of Nathan Rothschild, di Paolo concludes, "to figure out that if you pay the highest interest rate, you can attract enough deposits to use the trust company's assets grow geometrically. Of course, all that money had to be moved quickly. Hence the shift in derivatives, and to become a leader of last resort—investors which increasingly lost Confederation Trust—and later Confederation Life—to ruin."

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Backpack

A monthly report
on personal health,
life and leisure

HOME SWEAT HOME

It seems almost quaint now, but there was a time not so many years ago when keeping fit meant lugging up a pair of running shoes for a little jog around the block, or doing a few push-ups on the living-room floor. But like everything else in life, fitness in shape has become a lot more complicated—and expensive. For cardiovascular conditioning, the fitness industry offers a vast array of high-tech exercise bicycles—or “spike organizers,” as they are known in the trade—as well as rowing machines, motorized stair-climbers and computerized treadmills with pulse oximeters and digital readouts. For strength-training, there is an equally wide assortment of compact, multiexercise gyms that use rubber bands, hydraulic pistons or steel cables to duplicate the muscle-building benefits of primping with free weights.

The best place to try out a variety of exercise machines is usually a well-equipped local health club, university fitness center or YMCA. In fact, many consumers find it easier to stick to a routine when they are surrounded by people sweating it out on adjacent pieces of equipment. But for others, health clubs are impractical—it takes too much time to get to one, or they cannot bring themselves to go out again after a 12-hour day at the office or taking care of the children. And not everyone enjoys having to wait in line to use a favorite machine, only to reduce cardiovascular loads from sleek, bewilderingly complex aerobic workouts to knee-buzzing bodyweight. Aging baby boomers in particular, often prefer to do their own thing and peddle in the privacy of their own homes.

Fortunately, almost every manufacturer of professional exercise equipment produces a consumer line of machines for the home—with prices ranging from a few hundred dollars to several thousand. And every year, some new game into the market promising to suck away at fat, increase energy, improve posture, maintain lean, taut, rippling physiques of muscle. A few live up to their claims, but many others are relegated to a dusty corner of the basement—either because they were badly designed or the

High-tech
equipment
can provide
a workout
anywhere



Exercising in Vancouver: transforming fish into rippling muscle

first place, or because using them turned out to be a crumbing bore.

Believe it or not, a small fatigue in a home gym, it makes sense to do a bit of research first. Some advice from the fitness experts:

GET A CHECKUP FIRST

"I see people all the time who think that the best way to get in shape is to jump on a machine and start pumping away," says Denis Gagnon, president of Vancouver-based

Prime Partners in Fitness, a private health studio whose clients include high-powered corporate executives and professionals. "If they're out of shape, they're putting themselves at risk of a heart attack." For that reason, Gagnon advises beginners—especially men over the age of 45—to see their doctor for a full cardiovascular exam-

ination. Depending on the results, it may be wise to stick to low-intensity workouts.

Another lesson to keep in mind is the potential for back problems. If back pain has been a concern in the past, experts advise staying away from rowing machines and seated using a recumbent cycle, which allows that user to pedal away in comfort while reclining in an adjustable seat.

Treadmills and stair-climbers can also cause joint stress to some extent, particularly if the machine is of inferior quality. "After a while, the knee starts grinding into the foot," says Mike Maslow, head of athletic fitness at Toronto's Lakeshore and Pines sports injury clinic. "The problem

can get so bad that it becomes painful to climb stairs or even sit in a car." The best insurance against such injuries, he adds, is usually just to slow down and take it easy. "A lot of people think that if it hurts, they just get going a good workout," Maslow says. "The assumption is that eventually the pain will go away—which is the best way to hurt yourself."

TEST THE EQUIPMENT BEFORE BUYING

It is surprising how many people will plunk down \$1,000 for a sophisticated cycling machine after trying it out for only a few minutes on the showroom floor. To avoid disappointment, ask if it is possible to return the machine within 30 days. Or join a health club on a trial membership. That way, you can find out what equipment you enjoy the most, and which features you would like in your home machine.

Although individual preferences vary widely, Gagnon says the most sensible purchase for most people is a motorized treadmill or an exercise cycle. Both offer a good aerobic workout and can be adjusted to suit the user's fitness level. Next on Gagnon's list would be a stair climber or a rowing machine, both of which offer a more demanding cardiovascular workout. Last on the list, for most people, is a cross-country skiing machine. "I'm sorry to say it, but in order to use a skiing machine you need excellent coordination and balance, as well as muscular strength and endurance," he says. "No matter what the manufacturers say, skiing machines are not for everybody."

Finally, no workout is complete without some strength-building time. For those on a tight budget, a selection of free weights and a sturdy, adjustable bench will usually do the trick; another worthwhile option is an inexpensive set of rubber cones that simulate sand barrels and dumbbell routines. For \$1,000 and up there are muscle-building machines that allow dozens of different exercises such as curls, bench presses and leg presses. "If you look around your old-life home, you'll see a lot of people who have lost their independence simply because their muscles have atrophied," says Norm Girdell, a physical education professor at York University in Toronto. "Strength training isn't just for people who want big muscles—it's also directly related to our quality of life as we get older."

BE PREPARED TO PAY FOR QUALITY

The exercise-equipment market is flooded with inexpensive knock-offs that claim to be just as good as their high-priced cousins. Don't believe it. "As a test, I once bought one of those \$50 strappers that was advertised on TV," Girdell says. "It wasn't very stable, and it broke the first time I used it." Not only that, but cheaper machines are often harder to adjust—a major problem if the machine is going to be used by two or more people. "It takes too long to adjust that seat and handlebars before you get an exercise, you're not going to want to use it a lot," Girdell says.

Another advantage to purchasing more expensive machines is that they usually include a variety of electronic features to keep exercisers interested. Some stationary bicycles, for example, offer computerized models that simulate rides up and down hills. And many machines keep track of the number of calories burned, an incentive that is even possible to "race" against computer opponents.

"The belts and watches are really there to keep you motivated," says Scott MacMillan, general manager of the Hukler/Dan mouth YMCA. "I've known people who spend \$800 or \$900 on an exercise bike and then find out that it was not what it was, so they go up and come back to the club." And believe him, that isn't one exercise machine because just another high-priced cost barrier.

EXERCISE ALERT

Lower-back pain, muscle strains and joint injuries are not the only health problems that can result from overuse or misuse of home exercise equipment. According to a report by two Philadelphia doctors, exertion equipment is also involved in a surprising number of emergency injuries every year.

Podiatrist John A. David launched the study after coming across two cases in which a stationary bicycle had torn off a child's finger. Together with a colleague, Dr. Allan DeJong, Dr. David reviewed case reports from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and found that 25,200 Americans had been admitted to emergency rooms in 1990 with injuries caused by exercise equipment. That was four times the number of such injuries in 1982.

According to the researchers, exercise bikes were by far the most dangerous type of machine, accounting for 35 percent of all the accidents surveyed—mainly on treadmills, but also on ellipticals, and even on the new "air" or "airer" Aerobics. Alarmingly, more than half of the people who suffered injuries were children under 15. Although no comparable study has been done in Canada, the findings obviously underscore the need for close supervision of children playing on or near exercise equipment.

Backpack

A drink a day

For cigarettes, the verdict is clear: even one too many. Until recently, many people would have said the same thing about alcohol. Dismissed by some of the century's prohibitionists as "demon drink," alcohol is still often portrayed as one of life's guilty pleasures. But for regulars who can limit themselves to one or two drinks a day, a new picture is emerging: alcohol can actually be beneficial. Dozens of studies in recent years have shown that there are tangible benefits to moderate drinking, most notably a reduction in the incidence of various forms of heart disease. At one of the most exhaustive studies to date, U.S. doctors reported earlier this month in the *British Medical Journal* that those who drink moderately actually appear

to live longer than those who do not drink at all. Despite the accumulating evidence, it will be a long time—of ever—before

Canadian doctors issue a blanket recommendation that people reduce their consumption of alcohol. The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is on record as telling Canadians to reduce their average consumption of alcohol to the equivalent of six liters of pure alcohol a year, or about 10 drinks a week from the current eight liters.

Many doctors say they are reluctant to recommend the odd sippie because they are not sure how the message will be understood. It is, in fact, a complex message with plenty of caveats, although it appears advantageous for some people to drink some quantity of alcohol, the exact amount that provides the greatest benefit with the least risk has yet to be determined. Many health professionals worry that the public will misinterpret the moderate message, regardless of how clearly it is spelled out. Dekeas (Dr. Eric Siegle, director of policy and research for the Ottawa-based Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. "Everybody thinks they are a 'moderate' drinker, even those who drink three or four drinks a day, which is quite high."

For those who believe that if a little is good, more must be better, dire consequences are in store. In large quantities, alcohol is toxic: each year, dozens of Canadians die of accidental alcohol poisoning. Consistent heavy drinking can lead to high blood pressure, strokes, brain damage, osteoporosis and cancers of the liver. At least one study has also linked alcohol consumption to breast cancer in women. Heavy drinkers also spend less time on those around them. Each year, drunk drivers kill more than 2,000 Canadians and injure 65,000.

For some people, even a small amount of alcohol is dangerous. It has long been one of the key targets of Alcoholics Anonymous, that recovering alcoholics should abstain from alcohol for the rest of their lives. And those taking certain over-the-counter or prescription medications, including sedatives and antidepressants, should avoid alcohol because it can exaggerate

or nullify the effects of many drugs.

Doctors also recommend that women not drink during pregnancy. Fetal alcohol syndrome, which can cause birth defects such as facial abnormalities and mental retardation, has been linked to heavy alcohol consumption. But Dr. David Walters, director of health care at the province for the Ottawa-based CMA, says that it is still unknown how much alcohol a pregnant woman can consume before putting her unborn child at risk of less severe problems, including behavioral

or learning difficulties. "A woman shouldn't panic if she has had the odd drink before learning she is pregnant," Walters adds. "But she should still try to avoid alcohol during pregnancy."

Still, one drink a day—defined as 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of spirits—can be a tonic for many others. Researchers first became intrigued by the health-promoting aspects of alcohol because of the so-called French paradox. The French, despite eating a diet high in fatty foods—like cheese and goose liver pâté—are less likely to die of heart disease than citizens of other Western industrialized nations. At first, it was assumed that the lower death rate was a result of the French fondness for red wine. More recent studies, however, have found no measurable differences among the different types of alcohol in helping to reduce the risk of heart disease. And an American Medical Association study published in September indicated that if the entire U.S. population stopped drinking alcohol, there would be an additional 81,000 deaths from heart disease every year.

What scientists do not yet know is exactly how alcohol acts to reduce the risk of heart disease. One theory is that it somehow boosts the body's production of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. High levels of HDL have been shown to help flush the coronary arteries of fatty deposits known as low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol. Another theory suggests that alcohol acts as an anticoagulant, preventing blood clots that can trigger heart attacks. Stan Saitan, a psychology professor at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., says that alcohol may also help to reduce stress. "Alcohol, in the proper context, provides a lot of people with a little relaxation," he adds. "A little pleasure is good as the stressed-out lives tend to go to hell." And for many people, alcohol in moderation is easy medicine to swallow.

Alcohol can be healthful

The McCoy's



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ALTHOUGH THE MCCOGEY BROTHERS AND THEIR SISTER MAYE ALWAYS BEEN REMINDED OF THEIR STRIKING SIMILARITIES, IT IS THEIR DIFFERENCES THEY HAVE ALWAYS INSISTED ON. IT IS NO WONDER THEN, THAT EACH OWNS A DIFFERENT WATERMAN PEN. FOR WHILE STYLE IS KEY, INDIVIDUALITY IS STILL EVERYTHING.

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Calendar

An autumn roundup of rodeos and other haunting events

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Oct. 29-31 Vancouver International Writers Festival, Granville Island. More than 50 authors and playwrights take part in readings, panel discussions and question-and-answer sessions. Speakers include Irish novelist Maeve Binchy and Canadians Robertson Davies and Marjorie Becker.

Nov. 3-26 Art in Miniature, Quilicum Beach. Amateur artists frolic across the province exhibit paintings, sculpture and pottery. The only stipulation is that all works must be smaller than four inches by five.

ALBERTA

Nov. 2-6 State Canada, Red Deer. One of the most prestigious events on the international figure-skating calendar. This year's international competition is headlined by world champion Elena Bogova of Richmond Hill, Ont., and world silver medalist Philippe Candeloro of France, as well as women's world bronze medalist Tanja Senneccker of Germany.

Nov. 9-17 Canadian Finals Rodeo, Edmonton. The 21st annual national professional championship features the year's top 10 Canadian competitors in such categories as bronco-riding and steer-wrestling. With more than \$400,000 in prize money, the event is the richest rodeo in Canada.

SASKATCHEWAN

Oct. 29-31 Fall Cuts and Stamp Show, Regina. An annual show of coins, stamps and sports cards, with collectors' exhibits, attracts visitors from across Canada. **Nov. 9-12 Turlon Harvest Showdown and Rodeo.** An exhibit and sale of cattle, sheep, horses and pigs, accompanied by a two-day indoor rodeo and 4-H judging.

MANITOBA

Oct. 20-23, 26-29 Snow Lake. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The Royal kids of its 1984-1985 season with Evelyn Hart as the lead role of a personal favorite.

ONTARIO

To Nov. 20 Dinosaur Mania, Toronto. The world's largest traveling Big dinosaur show of ten a display of 57 life-sized fiberglass models of the giants all made in Quebec, plus eight dinosaur robots. The exhibit, already



Show jumping at the Royal: an annual convergence of city and country life

Royal winter affair

Metropoli Toronto may be Canada's biggest city, but it is also home to the world's largest indoor agricultural fair and equestrian congregation, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The Royal, as it is popularly known, is where city meets country. Ever since the first fair in 1853, horse-and-buggy holders have carried on the tradition of wearing formal attire—tuxedos for men, gowns for women. But the real celebrities at this year's event, Nov. 8 to 19 at Exhibition Place, will be found among the 3,000 cattle, 1,200 horses, 2,000 poultry, pigs and waterfowl, 300 sheep, 600 goats and 400 winter vying for top prize honors in their respective categories. This year, the Royal features a special ceremony—the official coronation of Big Ben, Canada's most famous show jumper. Tickets to the popular horse's farewell performance are already sold out, but he will also be trotted out daily at the Big Ben Retirement Tour booth—a small step for a performer known around the world for his great leaps.

seen in Montreal, Quebec City and Los Angeles, moves on to Boston and Vancouver this winter.

Oct. 20-21 St. Catharines' Chautauque and Pumpkins. Four days of Borealis music, beer and pumpkin carving.

Oct. 29-30 60th Psychic Expo, Mississauga. The 12th annual gathering of 150 psychics, crystal-ball gazers and readers of palms, tea leaves and chicken bones from Canada and the United States. Free demonstrations, pay-the-bucks and insured crystals for sale. Organizers confidently predict about 10,000 visitors.

QUEBEC

To Jan. 15 Alex Colville Retrospective, Montreal. An exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts

focusing on works from the past 10 years by the popular Canadian artist.

Oct. 19-23 Snow Goose Festival, Montserrat. The city celebrates the annual return of the snow geese with parades, theme days and guided tours.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Oct. 8-Nov. 20 Today's Pleasure, Tomorrow's Treasure, Fredericton. The Fredericton Quilters' Guild exhibits members' works of various sizes and patterns.

Nov. 7-13 Fourth Annual Atlantic Canada World Wine Festival, Moncton. Tastings of more than 200 wines from around the world (including neighboring Nova Scotia), seminars on wine production and a special sampling of French grand cru wines.



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NOVA SCOTIA

Oct. 24-31: Nightmares on Windward Street, Dartmouth: An annual event staged to an abandoned police station that has been converted into a "haunted castle" to raise money for a local charity. Volunteers will do their best to speak visitors in the Demon's Dungeon.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Oct. 25: Red Cross Car Rally, province-wide: Dragging traces will start in Charlottetown on a four-hour course, finishing at Woodville—where spectators promise food and musical entertainment. Oct. 28: Ploeghous Festival, Grand Coober Historic Village: Shows on demonstrations of various pioneer ploughing techniques.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Oct. 4-25: Images in Stone, Lunenburg: A solo exhibition of works by Lunenburg

sculptor George Colwell. In a suspension, wheelchair, ivory and steel.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Oct. 31: Halloween in Hibernia: The area gets its October temperature in the Victoria Island community, 500 km north of the Arctic Circle, at 50° C—which is why the town's 361 residents rarely close their eyes for the occasion. Still, by tradition everyone dons go out to roll upon everyone else.

YUKON

Nov. 2: National Ballet School Student Performance, Whitehorse: Every year, the school crosses the country to audition young talent. In Whitehorse, one of 20 stops on this year's tour, 12 students will perform a classical pas de deux, a modern ballet and a choreographed class that gives a behind-the-scenes look at the training of a young dancer.



Gay Fowkes bonfire in St. John's is a blend of trash and tradition

Blaze days

The spectacle is so well established that Philip Harnock cannot remember the first time he saw it. But even now, the 42-year-old historian at Memorial University in St. John's is awed by the sight of Bonfire Night, the major event Newfoundlanders give to Guy Fowkes Day each Nov. 5. An English tradition dating back almost four centuries, the day commemorates the arrest in 1605 of a British Catholic for attempting to blow up the Protestant-dominated Houses of Parliament. Every year, in outposts and settlements across the province—particularly those settled by British families—local residents gather bonfires, burn discarded sofas and other items, pile them in some precarious place and set them ablaze.

There is a practical purpose to the celebrations: in places without regular garbage collection, the fires offer a convenient way to get rid of trash. Usually it is a good, clean fire—an opportunity for people to gather, watch the flames and toast marshmallows. But in St. John's—where as many as 40 or 50 fires can be glimpsed on a typical Bonfire Night—some locals have campaigned to quell the practice, as the grounds that the fires pose a danger to the city's many wooden houses. So far, tradition has prevailed—except if few people are aware of the event's historical significance. Harnock, for one, has made it his practice in recent years to visit younger residents if they have ever heard of Guy Fowkes. Invariably, he says, they just stare back, puzzled.

NEXT

A sampling of upcoming diversions

MOVIES

Road to Melville: A comedy starring Anthony Hopkins as Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, the fake who invented the cornflakes.

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: Kenneth Branagh directs Robert De Niro in an update of the gothic classic. Bullets Over Broadway: Woody Allen shows his sleazy power with a period movie about actors and playwrights.

Dance Me Outside: Canadian Bruce Macdonald adapts W. P. Kinsella's Indian stories. A Wind from Wyoming: Quebec director André Forcier's surreal tale of bowens, war vets, nuns and a teenage girl whose mother insists her boyfriend

VIDEO

Bitter Moon: Roman Polanski's gleefully perverse tale of ship-board sex and skullbumping, featuring Hugh Grant. Crossed: Spike Lee tries to bring it all back home in a frank, barely named. I Love a Man in Uniform: Nicolas Gheslaine director David Wellington portrays a man who confuses TV and reality.

Little Buddha: Bernardo Bertolucci casts Keanu Reeves as the Buddha in a most excellent adventure



BOOKS

In an Oldfellow: My Life in Hockey: Jean Beliveau with Chris Geyens and Allan Turvey (McClelland & Stewart). A living legend talks about his life on and off the ice.

Talk Dirty to Me: An Intimate Philosophy of Ben Belie (Tavish/Doubleday). The author of a much discussed essay, first published in Harper's magazine, has expanded it into a compelling full-length book.

The Prophet (Methuen): The Tragedy of Hamlet and Hamlet (Bantam): Michael Harris (McClelland & Stewart). An award-winning journalist reveals some little-known details about an infamous murder in London, Ont.

The Good Husband: Gail Godwin (Random House). Two marriages and two friends are profoundly affected by a woman's illness.

AUDIO

Healing Hands of Time: Willie Nelson (KJL). Accompanied by an orchestra, Nelson performs his own songs and a few others' songs. The V Dicks: The Columbia Years, 1943-1952: Hank Williams (Sony). Previously unreleased recordings from 1943-1952.

Hill Country Over The Eagles (NCA). A classic record's first album in 14 years. Les Troyens: Various singers, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra (Chandos). Conductor (Philip Glass). Canada's premier symphony tackles Hector Berlioz's five-act opera.

PEOPLE

A LONG-SHOT WIN

Canada's surprising victory at golf's Dunhill Cup competition in Scotland in Oct. 9 was no mere triumph of the underdog. According to bookmakers, Dave Gray, Rick Gibson, and Ray Stewart did not even qualify for underdog status as what amounts to the world team champions—the odds against them were 58 to 1. But as co-players with the game's best players, the trio of British Columbian defeated Zimbabwe-led by world No. 1 Nick Price—and, in the final, the U.S. team of Tom Nika, Curtis Strange and Fred Couples. The Canadians' performance made them each about \$200,000 richer, and for Stewart, who hopes to regain his PGA Tour card later this fall, the win reinforced his confidence. "The thing about golf is that I can beat anyone in the world on any given day," Stewart says. "Couples and Price and those guys will dominate over the long haul, but it was nice to beat them for once."

Stewart (left), Gibson, Gray and even underdogs



THE POLITICS OF IMAGE



Matrix: fighting to save "the most magical equipment there is"

Loren Helton does not make movie deals about things she feels passionate about. One of those is modeling—seriously. After years concentrating on her movie career, Helton, 30, decided to start modeling again in 1989 as a way to move fairly represent women beyond childbearing age. "After the feminist revolution in the '60s, women went into every profession, except for controlling the actual images of women themselves," she says. "They were still girls. And I realized that for women, once they were out of eggs, they were out of business." Now, she *Cherishes*. So, born Helton is in the vanguard of the new wave of mature models. Last year, she resigned with Revlon, the

same cosmetics company that helped make her a star in the 1970s. And that has provided her with a platform for another passion: women's health issues, specifically money funds for breast and ovarian cancer research. "It's a terrible thing we haven't just enough money into saving the most magical equipment there is—even after mugged that men's hydraulic lifts," says Helton, who was in Toronto to last week to launch Revlon's Kiss for the Cure campaign for every special lipstick sold, \$1 will be donated to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. And although her 51st birthday is next month, Helton has no plans to slow down. "I'm out of eggs," she says, "but I'm still in business."

SERIOUSLY FUNNY

War, Armageddon and other forms of mass-scale catastrophe hardly seem like the usual grist for the comedy mill—except to P. J. O'Rourke. An international affairs desk chair for *Rolling Stone* magazine, the self-styled "journalist humorist" travels to such world hot spots as Bosnia, Somalia and Lebanon, and then writes about whatever strikes his fancy bone. But in his latest book, the exhaustively titled *All the Trouble in the World: The Lively Tale of European Warfare, Famine, Foreign Disaster, Ethnic Hatred, Plague and Poverty*, the 46-year-old New Yorker shows a more serious side. Although he still deploys one liners—"Why is it, O'Rourke asks, that population problems never seem to worry



O'Rourke earned wit

"I see no conflict between being funny and having serious ideas," O'Rourke says of the mix of wit and earnest rhetoric in *All the Trouble in the World*. "I want to win the Pulitzer Prize for Just Kidding."

Shed by JOE CHIDLEY

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Beacon of controversy

Manned lighthouses could fall victim to budget cuts and automation

Even by daylight and with the sea glassy and sunless, the shoreline is menacing. Grey rock outcrops thrust forward from the base of 150-foot cliffs like rotten teeth, chewing the coastline further west into white foam. To the west, rock guard to exposed head to the east, sheer cliffs smash implicitly to the horizon. For generations of mariners, searching by star compass or dead reckoning for the safety of harbours in Vancouver and Seattle, those cliffs have offered a treacherous—and sometimes fatal—first landing. And the handful of lighthouses like the one that has stood for 97 years on Pichena Point, 130 km west of Victoria on Vancouver Island, have literally been beacons of salvation, fixed points of reference along an otherwise featureless coast. Douglas Fraser, the principal keeper of the Pichena Point light, would like to keep it that way. Declared the go-to (779-560-1000), he has studied mariners' tales of the lighthouse's value. "The aid to navigation is as essential today as it ever was."

Keepers like Fraser, however, are another matter. For the third time in as many decades the Canadian Coast Guard, which operates 20 lighthouses on the West Coast and 35 more on the Atlantic, has set out to replace its human keepers with automated, automated lights and lighthouses. The move, an estimated \$6.8-million a year saving. In the past, intense lobbying by mariners and regional politicians succeeded in persuading the Ottawa-based Coast Guard to shelve its so-called drafting timetable. But that is far from certain this time. Even as a deficit-conscious federal government is cutting programs on the agency to trim a higher three per cent annually from its \$575-million budget, advocates of dismantling what they say are antiquated and expensive lighthouses see reduced the importance of individual lighthouses. Still, in a province where an estimated one-third of the people live on the water regularly for business or pleasure, the proposal has raised both vocal resistance and alarm for marine safety.

"What's happening here is false economy," argues Dennis Brown of the fishermen's union. "I am just as proud as anybody else about how much I have to pay, but I'm not out to get Bennett. I'm not out to get money and I'm not out to get light keepers."

The critics say lighthouses constitute an essential public service that may be foreign to land-based decision-makers in Ottawa, but to many

British Columbians is just reason to see the province's saw toothed, 30,000-km coast line, made all the more hazardous by powerful tidal rips and currents that can move faster than many small boats are heavily loaded. Superintenders as long as several hundred fields regularly track the B.C. coast on their way from Alaska oil fields to southern fisheries. Each year, about 2,000 deep-sea merchant vessels also enter ports in the province. Ties to the log booms and barges loaded with gravel and coal shore the congested waters of George Strait, between Vancouver Island and the B.C. mainland, with cruise ships the size of floating hotels, ferries that annually carry 1.1 million passengers and some 250,000 pleasure craft mooring in one from Puget Sound to the straits of the Strait. And that traffic is increasing. Fraser, pointing towards a passing yacht from the narrow balcony 225 feet above the water at the top of the Pichena Point light tower, "When we first came here in 1930, we wouldn't see a pleasure boat like that here. Now the numbers are growing all the time."

But so as the federal deficit, a troubling reality that has prompted several previous attempts to replace manned lights with low-costly automated beacons. The Coast Guard has already an-



Fraser and the Pichena Point light, without the keepers "you are going to have 75 per-cent efficiency"

passed the transition on dozens of light houses elsewhere in the country, reducing the number of manned stations in the three Maritime provinces to three from more than 60 in 1973. In 1982, opposed opposition led by Pat Conroy, a B.C. senator and former federal minister, forced the Conservative government to abandon a similarly sweeping plan to do away with western lighthouses. But last March, new Liberal Transport Minister Douglas Young (whose home town is the New Brunswick coastal community of Tracadie) ordered that deal to be rescinded.

Coast Guard managers insist that the transi-

tion can take place without putting boaters, ferry passengers and seafarers at risk. Citing the agency's experience with its 327 rotating automated light beacons along the Pacific coast, western regional marine navigation services manager Richard Bryant asserts, "The automated light stations will be substantially more reliable for safe navigation." At the same time, the Coast Guard hopes to achieve substantial savings by closing the large and costly manned light stations at Pichena Point alone. For instance, there are two houses, a workshop office and a helipad. The changeover to the Pacific would take three years to complete at a cost of \$5 million.

But lighthouse keepers like Fraser say mariners will suffer. For one thing, they question Bryant's claim that the automated light and fog signals are "50 per cent reliable." According to Fraser, the electronic fog detector that picks its two beams out to sea from a small sensor halfway up the Pichena Point light tower, malfunctions at least one-quarter of the time that it is in use. "If you take the people away," he says, "you are going to have the Second operation." Moreover, frequent bad weather, especially in the winter, can make it impossible for rescue crews to land at the exposed light station, raising the spectre of extended shutdowns if the station ever is damaged.

Although their main job is simply to maintain the lights, keepers argue that they provide other services of no small utility that mariners would miss. One of these is taking weather and sea state observations once every three hours. The mariners are bound to assemble accurate and useful weather reports and are heavily relied on by vessel skippers who know that conditions along the coast can vary dramatically even over short distances. Another is extreme weather warnings. Fraser notes that a neighbouring light station at Caranah Point was the first to report a large ice slick that endangered west coast Vancouver Island in 1989.

The service that mariners may miss most is also beyond any official description of a lighthouse's job. Lightkeepers routinely make up vessels in trouble and frequently play a direct role in their rescue. Among those who credit their lightkeepers with saving their lives is Victoria kayaker James Worthington. The 33-year-old professional, an experienced paddler, was boating with a friend one Tri Island just south of downtown Victoria last July when 10-foot waves captured his frail craft. Unable to right his kayak, Worthington was being pulled out and was by a powerful current when attendants at the manned Tri Island lighthouse spot-

ted him. Minutes later, lighthouse linn Colquhoun pulled the exhausted Worthington to his own boat. "I remember seeing that light out there," Worthington says now, "and wondering if it was already abandoned. It was kind of a scary thought."

B.C. fishermen are angered by the apparent scrapping of at least one other lighthouse. Former Pichena Point keeper Tom Carr recalls that in 1933 David Anderson, now the minister of Fisheries and the federal revenue minister, was plotting a small sailboat from Haida when the craft was caught in a gale just off the B.C. coast. Caught by a squall, the keepers of another light on Pichena Point directed Anderson into a safe harbor. Later, Anderson failed to acknowledge to prevent his boat from a battle of champagne. But the minister who now menaces that his boat was never in danger, has declined to lend his political weight to the keepers' campaign to preserve their role. "We thought we were doing a service and now we're critical," declares Carr. "It just gives you a rotten feeling."

The keepers have other allies, however. Early last summer, Carr's son visited the island. The Second operation, built a dozen members of British Columbia's NDP government put their names to a letter urging the Coast Guard to reconsider its plans, and the letter, "will unanimously jeopardize the safety of travellers up and down British Columbia coast."

At the same time, the opposition has lured the Coast Guard to say any action on hold while it undertakes a wholesale public review of its plan. The review, however, may only draw renewed attention to what critics say has been a progressive disregard of the Coast Guard's capabilities in the Pacific Coast. Other complaints likely to surface during the review focus on the withdrawal of one of two scarce hovercraft from service in Georgia Strait, and a two-year-old policy ban may Coast Guard from attempting to rescue victims trapped in overboarded or sinking vessels. The agency took the steps to save money, despite a 300-per-cent increase in vessel accidents in B.C. waters between 1983 and 1992.

Meanwhile, whatever the capabilities of modern navigation electronics, many mariners insist on the comfort and safety of beacons of an old-fashioned lighthouse. "You can look in your radar all you want," observes Capt. Ray Deinger, a former tanker master who now teaches navigation at the Pacific Marine Training Institute in North Vancouver, "but the final confirmation that you are where you think you are is the beam of the lighthouse." Minister or not, that comfort, however old-fashioned, is clearly an important part of it was in 1936, the year that 136 people died when the Valerica went aground on the cliffs east of Pichena Point. The following year, the Dominion government built the lighthouse.

CHRIS WOOD at Pichena Point



A doctor of souls

THE CUNNING MAN

By Robertson Davies
(McClelland & Stewart,
475 pages, \$29.95)

No doubt Robertson Davies' imagination shines as a place where the conversation is always good. This would make a very comfortable place, too, since in an age of mass communications and populist jargon, few people put much effort into talking in an original or entertaining way. In his latest book, Davies' most stylish novelist continues to defy the ages of lazy speech. *The Cunning Man* takes the form of a sermon, but it reads more like an extended conversation by its narrator, Dr. Jonathan Hullah, a Toronto doctor nearing the end of his career. Hullah, like Davies himself, is learned, witty and wise—and never happier than when he can show it. He talks with great charm of his long life, his loves and his friends. And he reports on conversations in which everyone manages to be wittily amusing, tossing around anecdotes and insights with the ease of a professional playwriting.

All that makes for constant reading nice, whatever else he may be, Davies is a good companion. Settling into *The Cunning Man* is like taking a comfortable chair opposite a favorite uncle who has seen and done everything. Hullah, like so many of Davies' characters, is an expert on a much less than writer. In *Letter to Davies*, H.L. Hullah stands at the end of a life rich in accomplishment. The "cunning man" of the title, he has made a reputation (and a lot of money) as a doctor who knows as much about the souls of his patients as about their bodies. He is also a ticking bachelor who lost his youthful love, Nuala Connor, who she wanted one of his best friends, Brockley Gilmour. Hullah is so set for his back, after a fashion, by having a long affair with her. He has enjoyed the friendship of some of Toronto's most memorable personalities (Davies has based some of them on real citizens of the past). And he has known the horrors of war, during the London Blitz, he was trapped by incendiary bombs in a bathtub, where he spent several days



Davies: *here's a place where the conversation is always good*

**Robertson Davies's
physician hero is
wonderfully urbane**

sleeping in his own excrement.

To lend some narrative thrust to Hullah's tale, Davies starts the novel off with a bang—the sudden death of a priest, Sebastian Hubbes, during a 1931 service in a Toronto Anglican church. Hullah—who is recalling the event three decades later—finds something suspicious about the death at the time. His intuition seems to set up *The Cunning Man* as a mystery story. But the mystery is soon forgotten and when it surfaces again, more than 300 pages later, it is solved almost as an afterthought. The real subject of the book is Hullah's life and its myriad events. And *The Cunning Man* is held together less by narrative tension than by the hypnotic spell of Hullah's voice.

"That voice—in various forms it is common to all Davies's novels—creates both the appeal and the limitations of *The Cunning Man*

It fluidly suggests a level of civilization considerably above the ordinary. It hints at upper-middle-class life, good schools and the more innocent third-class Canada of the past. It creates an idyllic world—a world when there is time and inclination to converse and consider.

But those same qualities take too much of the sting from the book's events. Even murder and the sadness of old age seem diminished by Hullah's verbal alchemy. The doctor talks too well, gliding effortlessly past the shadows and depths of his own tale. In addition, Davies often undercuts Hullah's credibility by failing to provide the kind of telling detail that makes fiction seem true. When Hullah speaks of his Northern Ontario childhood in Brockton, the reader gets the impression that Davies has never been near the place. He lacks all feel for its deadness or color. Anyway, too, modern Davies makes an important symbol of the Mississauga natives in the nearby forest, although in fact the reader's habit is to look at the place anyway. And the two characters who influence the boy to take up medicine—a local quack doctor and an old Irish medicine man—are two-dimensional characters who seem lifted from Dickens.

Yes, if the novel lacks the originality and diagnostic subtleties of Davies's earlier prose, the *Diplomat* trilogy from the 1970s, it also offers a readable pleasure. One is the author's talent for the penetrating aphorism. He remarks that a school is "a jail with educational opportunities." And the wide public exposure won by gay activism inspires him to comment that "homosexuality has become, not the love which does not speak its name, but the love that never knows when to shut up."

The novel's most entertaining scene occurs when Hullah, Gilmour and Nuala get together late in their lives to confess their mutual betrayals. Here, Hullah's sensually civilized manner is muted when he discovers that Gilmour had hired a private detective to spy on him and Nuala. And his ego is both deflated and inflated when Nuala recalls him "rolling on your condom with satisfaction at being it so well, you saw us." This is Davies at his best: evoking laughter at the unbridgeable anomaly and complexity of the human creature. *The Cunning Man* spends too little time at that level. Yet, the book offers considerable evidence that the well-being of Davies's unique will be far from exhausted.

JOHN REEDHORE

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John Kent

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BOOKS

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IN DEFENSE OF ELITISM

By William A. Henry III
(Doubleday, 272 pages, \$26.95)

It seems that decrying the deplorable standards of contemporary culture has become a growth area in publishing. And the latest book to lament what is rather calls for the "banishing down of America" laments the blame on those families, politically correct villains—elitists, Afro-centrists and multiculturalists. Author William A. Henry III, who died of a heart attack in June at age 64, was *Time* magazine's drama critic and a classic liberal. Indeed he even had a page to detail his left-of-centre credentials, from membership in the American Civil Liberties Union to the fact that he once crossed a room to avoid being introduced to arch-conservative Pat Buchanan. Henry obviously felt that only a certified threat of the underworld has a hope of an attentive hearing.

Henry's book denounces the "breeding" of children and takes aim at every "exclusive"

impulse of modern American life. He is witty, erudite, correct in most areas. What a contemporary parenting degree barely represents as advanced as a present high-school diploma, it is undeniable that education has been "banned down" in Henry's favorite phrase. So, too, the media, as an era of "news you can use" and "prejudicially inhibited current-affairs shows."

When it comes to academics, however, Henry's liberalism is no match for his elitism. He would open the doors of the elite colleges to all those previously excluded, but without changing the elite's rules and procedures, responsibility to adapt themselves to its standards. Women who would like to see the workplace become more accommodating to the demands of child care are simply hanging their heads against reality, he argues—most parents will opt in the hours demanded by this job and discreetly reap the rewards.

For Henry, most people are merely support staff for the gifted few whose solidified achievements are all that matter. He is con-sympathetic towards "inferior" cultures, and makes the highly questionable argument that their inferiority is proven by military defeat. OK, the "temporarily sophisticated" culture of pre-Columbian Mexico, Henry asks why did not so advanced, it did not conquer Europe or at least successfully defend itself.

More bizarre are Henry's comments on the writings of the 1932 Nobel Prize in literature to black Caribbean poet Derek Walcott in order to focus, during the quinquennial of Columbus's voyage, on those devoted victims of the explorer's colonial legacy. "Henry mistook that Walcott loved worldwide audience in the last gaze of the outsider's appreciation," Henry writes or "that he and his countrymen escaped indigenous poverty and terror through such European promoted outcasts as individual freedom." It would seem that the Irish, for instance, should stop protesting about rights violations of British imperialism and instead be thankful a grave there a chance to learn English. It is this aspect of *In Defense of Elitism* that makes it clear why elitism requires defending, and why many might think that the real need is for a defence against it.

BRIAN KATHUNE

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BOOKS

Civil war within

A boy struggles with race and homosexuality

FUNNY BOY

By Shyam Selvadurai
(McGraw-Hill & Simon, 235 pages, \$17.95)

And, the protagonist of Shyam Selvadurai's first novel is homosexual, and "Funny Boy" is the term that his family uses to derisively him. Throughout the six chronologically arranged short stories that form the narrative, Arjun, who lives in Sri Lanka, never has any doubt about his sexual orientation, and his loved ones seem fairly certain as well. So much for trauma. By the time Arjun finally acts on his longings, it is page 258. For the reader, it is a disappointing read of violence that is to have known where a story was headed so long in advance.

Funny Boy, which appears to be at least semi-autobiographical, (judging towards the predictable by way of the obvious. Sri

Lankan born Toronto writer Selvadurai telegraphs all his narrative punches, amplifying the mistake by throwing on anachronistic lore about owing with such superior romanticism as "Little could I have imagined then that my father would soon step out of the frame as well as I had held him to reveal darkness I had never assigned him to possess."

Recent attacks the book's other plot line and theme: the animosity between Sri Lanka's Sinhalese and Tamil populations, which finally culminates in the 1982 anti-Tamil riots. However, the roots of the animosity are never explained. In the version of events provided by Selvadurai, who is half

Sinhalese and half Tamil, it seems as though the Sinhalese majority suddenly started burning, killing and killing Tamils for no apparent reason.

Despite all that, the literary has decided that Shyam Selvadurai is a talent to be watched. *Funny Boy* is one of five books on the shortlist for the \$50,000 Giller Prize for fiction. Judges Marjorie Ruchler, Alice Munro, and editor academic David Staines chose it over about 85 other Canadian books published this year. Selvadurai is also a darling of the politically correct set, because he is an immigrant and gay, that those are simply facts, not states of grace. What one would like from his novel is a protagonist who struggles with his sexuality illuminates the plight of any person who cannot bring what he or she is, even if that means openly break from one's family and society. That conflict is explored brilliantly in Jeanette Winterson's 1987 novel *Ghosts Are Not for the Faint-Hearted*. If the subject matter of *Funny Boy* seems appealing or intriguing, read Winterson.



Selvadurai: lack of insight

1987 novel *Ghosts Are Not for the Faint-Hearted*. If the subject matter of *Funny Boy* seems appealing or intriguing, read Winterson.

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FILMS

Making crime play

Quentin Tarantino unleashes his talent



Tarantino (left), *Pulp Fiction*: a world like *Sideways* with profanity and hard drugs

PULP FICTION

Directed by Quentin Tarantino

Quentin Tarantino is a high-school dropout who spent the 1980s working as a clerk in a Los Angeles video store, poring himself on the product like a lad in a candy store. Now, at the age of 31, he is the hottest under-director working in American cinema. Tarantino's new minor, *Pulp Fiction*, is the ultimate revenge of the cineaste. As if it were not enough that he has adapted John Travolta's career from the Hollywood trash heap—casting him as a hit man who shoots himself, duces the boss and accidentally blows a man's brains out in the back of a car—he has also coasted up with more of the same, with theatrical dialogue never written for a movie about low-life does with guns. *Pulp Fiction* is a gem.

Tarantino burst onto the scene in 1992 with *Reservoir Dogs*, a wonderfully nasty little movie about the aftermath of a jewel heist, a drama that unfolds in real time in a room slowly filled to death on a warehouse floor. It was the most talked-about directorial debut in years. Since then, two of Tarantino's scripts have become Hollywood movies, Tony Scott's *True Romance* and Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*. Now, with *Pulp Fiction*, which was the grand prize at the Cannes Film Festival, Tarantino catches his due as a great writer.

Slyly, outrageous and exhilarating, it consists of three separate tales that are ap-

proximately connected. They all concern criminals, but not romantic outlaws or mythic heroes. As the title suggests, the films in *Pulp Fiction* are graffiti and hard, the unsanitized journey into the underworld of the noir. But while the movie plays with the genre, it is not ruled by it. Tarantino has lit up the dark rock of crime cliché and found a brilliantly colorful world through an idiosyncratic *Pulp Fiction* drugs fix. See kick ass and cocaine in the delights.

The movie begins in the flesh of a corner nation—a midnight dialogue between two sadistic crooks in a restaurant booth, who call each other Pumpkin (Tim Roth) and Honey Bunny (Amanda Plummer). Pumpkin delivers a persuasive argument that they have been taking unnecessary risks robbing liquor stores. "Nobody robs restaurants," he says. "Why not?" Liquor stores are defended by well-armed waitresses, he points out, but restaurants have cowardly waiters and waitresses who would give up their wallets in a flash. Putting their money in the rest, Pumpkin and Honey Bunny whip out their guns.

From that first scene, the director establishes that, no matter what else happens, *Pulp Fiction* is going to be fun. The star of the movies are Vincent and Jules, a pair of hit men and Costello hit men bravely played by Tarantino and Samuel L. Jackson. As Vincent and Jules head off to do a job, Tarantino strings out the suspense with extended riffs of banal small talk—drugs, an absurd ex-

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change about what life Marx are called in Paris, to a debate over the sexual ramifications of foot massage. Tarantino's world is like *Jawollit* with postfeminist and hard drugs; the characters talk and talk about nothing.

Tarantino's coexistence with violence is a trade, drugs added to it. Vincent's boss, Marsellus (Ving Rhames), has assigned him to babysit his wife, Mia (Uma Thurman), and show her a good time. But her last escort ended up "telling" through a fourth-floor window. The drug-deck-leaving Tarantino's entering a dance contest at a restaurant studied by Fifties celebrity look-

like—a preface. Vincent is determined to resist Mia's advances. He is a protector of self-conscious cool, a gentle thug navigating the night as heroism. Just as the sexual preference warms towards a predictable conclusion, Tarantino denials it with a wily assassin and harassing curve.

The movie's second tale stars Bruce Willis as Dutch, a half-headed boxer. Paid by Marcellus to take a dive, he double-crosses the crime boss by beating his opponent—well, to a jelly. Dutch is all set to see to the South Sea with his girlfriend (Minnie Driver) when he realizes he has left be-

hind his gold watch, a cherished heirloom handed down to him by his father's war buddy (Christopher Walken in a cameo *Beauclerk*). As Dutch goes back to retrieve it, he runs the inevitable gauntlet of violence, but soon the war-time years of an badly unopposed target.

The third story picks up the saga of Vincent and Jules, and introduces a third gangster, a classy specialist named The Wolf (Harvey Keitel), who is brought in to supervise the cleanup of a car interior that has been thoroughly splattered with a messy brain. Jules has taken the car to the house of a friend, played by Tarantino, and they have less than an hour to mop up the gore and dump the body before the friend's wife gets home. Once again, to great comic effect, the director packs back the edges of movie-violence cliché. He makes the movie, without consequence, more surprising than the act itself.

Tarantino's cinematic vision is not criticism. His characters speak an unfettered dialect of racist and sexist epithets. And the vision is stubbornly male. There are no women in *Reservoir Dogs*. And in *Pulp Fiction*, the no-sexing-out played by Uma Thurman, while entertaining enough, lacks the subtlety and depth of the men. But the most obvious charge that could be leveled against the director is that his movies are just about movies, not real life. That they contain no real relationships. Tarantino may indeed be a scavenger rummaging through pop culture's junkyard, fishing off obscure scraps for his sound tracks and recycling stereotypes. Yet, his enthusiasm for movies, and movie-making, is strongly uplifting. And, as a film buff who has seen so much, perhaps too much, he despises stammering ambiguity.

For instance, it is probably safe to assume that Tarantino has watched almost every drug movie ever made. But his sense of Vincent cranking heroin to the drug store to end all drug stores is seductively extreme cleanup of the needle piercing the skin, blood swirling up into the syringe. Later, the director delivers the flip side, by pushing an overdose scene into screaming melodrama as a giant syringe full of adrenaline is plunged into a character's heart.

What is unusual is that a director with such speed like should be so interested in words. Tarantino allows actors the kind of dialogue—and monologues—usually found only in theatre. Walken's show-stopping onco consists of one monotonous soliloquy Jackson's righteous hit man delivers in *Old Testament* oration before dispatching his victim.

Meanwhile, with his cool-jerk reporting, Tarantino personifies the sort of sophisticated thug dream in the comic words of Elmore Leonard. Thanks to Tarantino, he has a new version. Recently the actor signed on to star in *Get Shorty*—based on Leonard's novel about a loan shark who becomes a Hollywood dentist. As for Tarantino, he has who became an actor, the Hollywood dream in the staff of pulp fiction no more.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON



BREAST HEALTH
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The law according to the chequebook

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

Why do lawyers do? All lawyers know that lawyers lie. Grifts may be known, but lawyers lie. It's just that they don't under stand why lawyers lie.

The *New York Times Magazine* has an interesting piece, explaining all the shenanigans in the Florida Altona's partner in the Marxist law firm of Cullin Gordon & Boudin, an unscrupulous lawyer who runs cases and appears as a constitutional law.

He thinks, since all the television-watching world is glad to O.J., that there never has been such a chance for the public to analyse what lawyers are all about. Or, as he puts it, to wonder what society asks lawyers to do "and the rather breathtakingly absurd way in which they do it."

Brother Abrams explains that the role of a defence lawyer is to get his client off. To do so, he has to abstract, distort, abstract and lie. That's his duty. That's the way the system works.

I once had a lawyer—there was not only a lawyer but a friend, if that is not an oxymoron—who defended me and my associate for years in labor cases when Social Credit politicians, other lawyers, ordinary citizens (or our judge) tried to put me in jail or send me to work camp.

One day, in my criminal case, I looked across the courtroom and there he was, appearing not as my friend and confidant, but as the opposing lawyer attempting to ruin my otherwise pristine reputation.

Being a lawyer, of course he fibbed. He said I had never in my life published an appeal or to someone. I had actually published. I told him he knew that wasn't true, since he had written the carefully phrased apologies for me and my associate when they occasionally had to appear.

The judge readily accepted a severe case of tapdances, so that he just had to bend his eyes to someone. I had actually published. I told him he knew that wasn't true, since he had written the carefully phrased apologies for me and my associate when they occasionally had to appear.

The learned Abrams explains that, regrettably,



line of whether O.J. Simpson did the dirty deeds with which he is charged, it is the job of his legal hired gun, Robert Shapiro, to attack the credibility of the police and "if useful" to attack "the character of Simpson's former wife whom he is accused of murdering. Only lawyers are expected to do such things."

It is the reason, actually, why all public-opinion surveys show that lawyers rank right down there with alcohol-drinking politicians in terms of bottom-dwelling, lower even than corrupt state politicians. Don't shoot the poor people in the situation, Abrams in effect suggests, he's doing the best he can. (While lying.)

I have a friend who is a lawyer—if that is not an oxymoron—who defended a steel worker in Hamilton who murdered his wife. His defence was that it was a suicide pact, the worst first and then he charged his gun. The judge smiled and indicated that that was close, but no cigar.

Current veterans Abrams, even in jail that is serious, informs us that "the Robert Shapiro who married, in one of his unending series of interviews, that Simpson was innocent was not the Shapiro one might have met before he was released by Simpson."

Those of us who believe in law hope it is true: the reports that O.J.'s symptoms for time will be empty, whatever the verdict, thanks to the fees charged by his multi-mouth lawyers. Whatever Shapiro says, Abrams reminds us, "is said for Simpson's benefit, not because it is true."

I ask every lawyer I run into if Robert Shapiro has ever asked O.J. if he did it. Of course not, they reply. That's not the way the system works. Shapiro's job is to get O.J. off. If he does, bring a celebrity lawyer (whose cell phone keeps going off at court), he can charge even more for the next client.

Michael Jackson and his kid problems, Mrs. Michael Jackson Presley's divorce case, whatever.

In *The Trial of the Century*—in spite of a million stockbroker jokes, everyone forgetting that two people were seriously almost to death—everyone is shocked. O.J.'s two twenty-six children from a previous marriage were asked in a TV interview if they had asked their father whether he in fact had shot their mother.

There was a confused pause for a moment and then, recovering, they all agreed that of course not, since he obviously could never have done such a terrible deed. They had never considered inquiring. Both are immediate candidates for law school.

Abrams, with some incisive points to the headline-work, best-selling author *Nat* Donowitz, the mouthpiece for Mike Tyson who is in the slaughter after Shapiro's women as hard as he did at his opponents in the heavyweight ring. The author is Dr. Donowitz of Tyson's attorney were not those of the Bill of Rights—prosecuting Harvard Law School Prof. Alan Donowitz. The Tyson defending Donowitz was, in the end, little more than a better spoken Tyson, Tyson in Harvard gets "Take all your down, put on your jock strap. Donowitz, as we all know, is now down the duty chain as third (maybe fourth) business in the Shapiro circus.

And so it is with lawyers, mouths for hire. My friend, married, married, is available for whatever hires him, chequebooks in hand. It is the way the system works. Abrams reminds us that it is, in his words, that the O.J. Simpson opera, available in all the book stores, will teach us more about the law than we had imagined. And about lawyers. It is sure to be educational.

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